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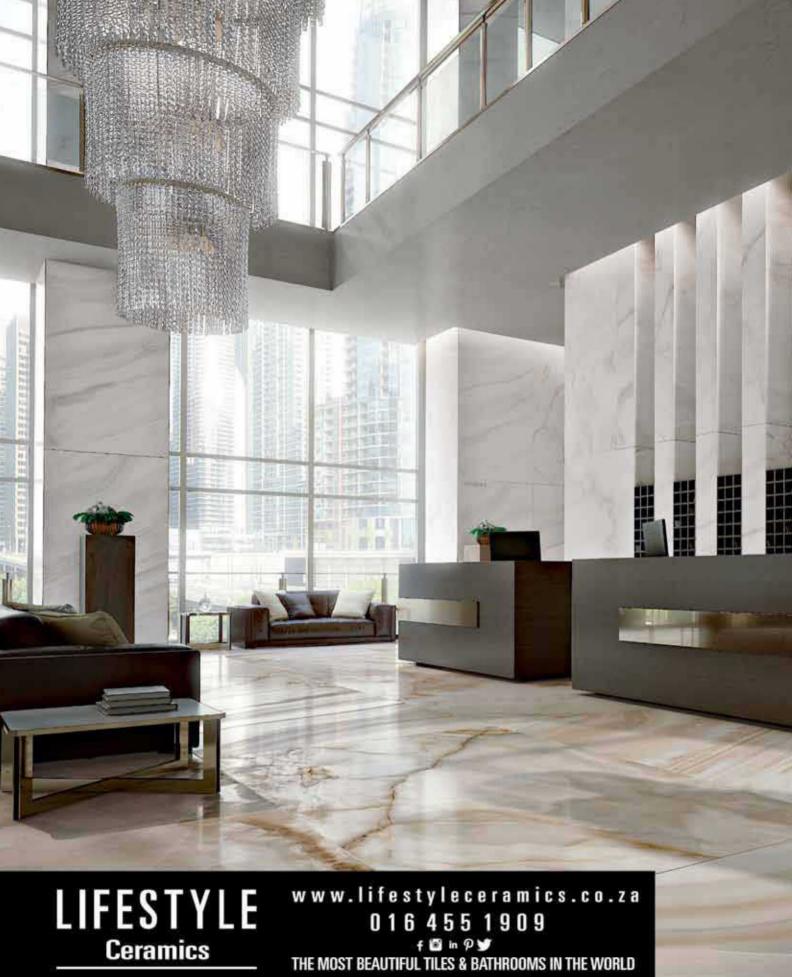
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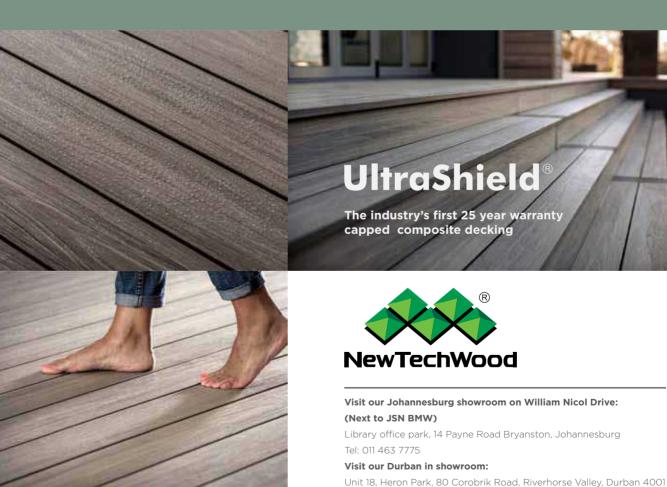
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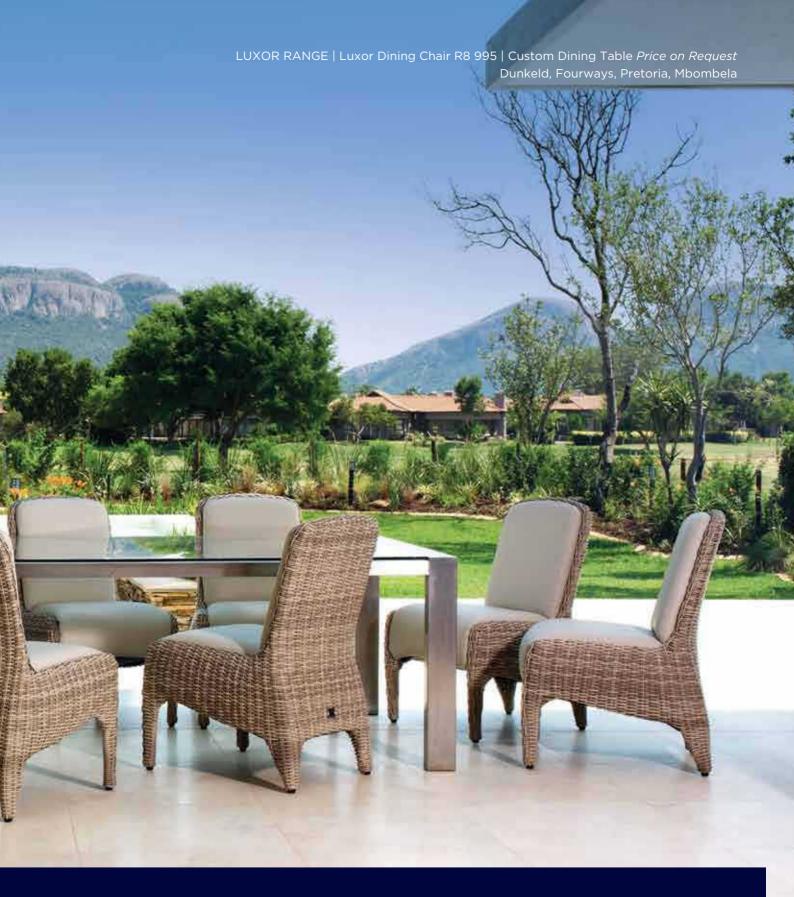






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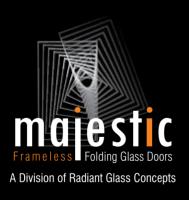






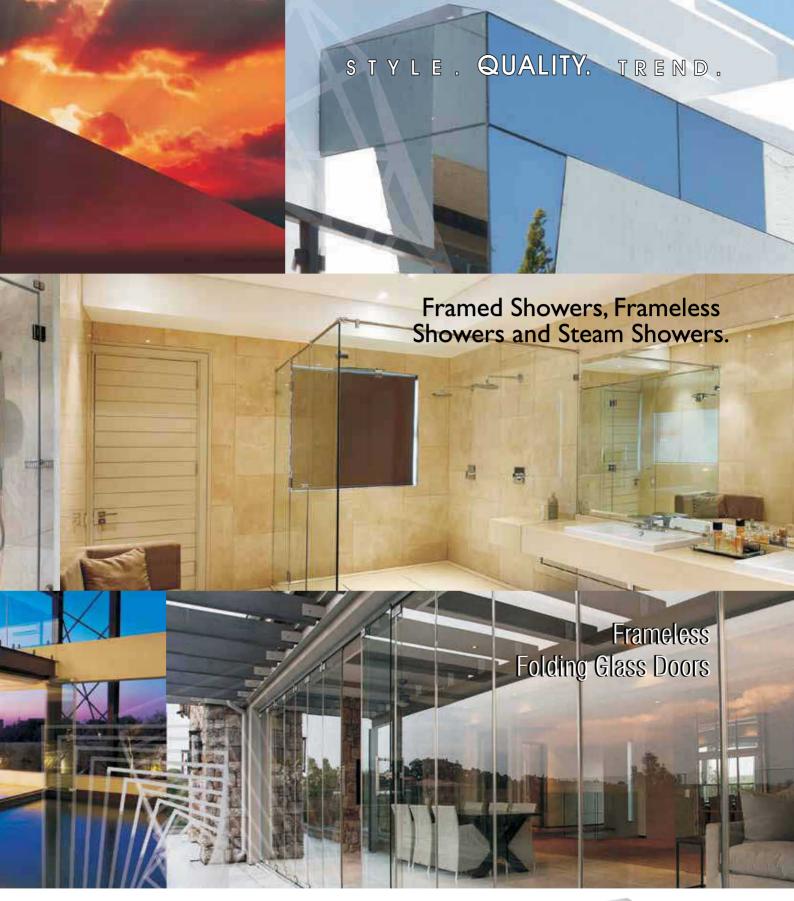
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# INSIDE THIS ISSUE



#### **PROPERTY**

48 CONTEMPORARY IN THE COUNTED

A modern farmhouse

**62 COASTAL ECLECTIC** 

The bright and breeze

75 SOULFUL R

A sweet sanctuary

90 IN THE WILD

One with nature

99 TIMELESS STYLE

Picture perfect yet practical

110 FUN FAMILY LIVING

The perfect home for bonding

119 SUBURBAN ALLURE

A space for serenity

127 QUIRKY MEETS CLASSIC

A home with personality

135 MODERN URBANITY

New way of living

143 THE STARTER HOME

For the first time buyer

#### IN EVERY ISSUE

35 HOME ESSENTIALS

Your must-have products and services

152 FACE TO FACE

A glimpse into the lives of decor and design professionals

230 BURNING ISSUE

To buy, or not to buy

232 SAHOMEOWNER.CO.ZA

Now online

234 LUXE LIVING

Indulge in the finer things

244 WORK SPACE

Corporate can be fun

256 OUT & ABOUT

Exploring the design and decor gems throughout the country

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# NS DE THIS ISSUE

#### AT HOME

#### 24 THE COLOUR REPORT

Colours to look out for this summer

#### 30 A GUIDE TO

Adding bright colour to your home

#### **156 KITCHEN ADDITIONS**

Get colour smart

#### **164 KITCHEN HOTSPOT**

Must-haves for the kitchen

#### **168 TILE STYLE**

Focus on tile trends in bathrooms

#### 176 BATHROOM HOTSPOT

Must-haves for the bathroom

#### 179 PAINT YOUR PALETTE

Fresh interior scheme

#### **186 TRENDSPOT**

Keeping your space trendy

#### 190 LIFE OF IT'S OWN

Styling your summer garden

#### 197 SPLASH BASH

The ultimate garden party

#### 215 COLOUR CODED

How colour combos affect your mood

#### 226 BEAT THE HEAT

Great ideas to keep your home cool

#### 237 ESCAPE TO LUXURY

The team explores five-star hotels

#### 243 SCENE AROUND

B&O launches in Melrose Arch

#### WIN & OFFERS

#### 28 SUBSCRIBE TO SA HOME OWNER

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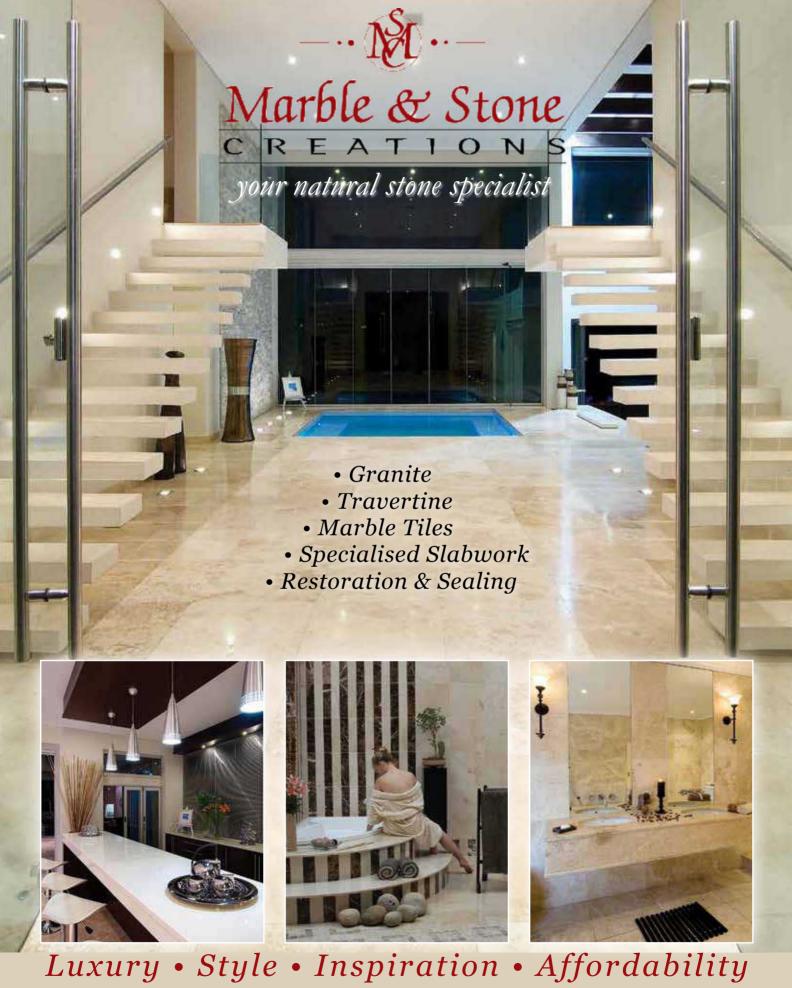
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## ed'snote

#### COLOUR CONNECTION

Colour is an extraordinary thing! It can do so much for a space - give it a mood; lift a neutral room with a bold feature wall; add interest through pops of colour in accessories; or mirror a season through a particular palette.

Our December/January issue is as colourful as it gets, with vibrant articles to keep you inspired over the holiday season, and into the New Year. From decorating with colour in the kitchen, to stylish bathroom tiles; and trending

colour palettes for your interiors, to using colour psychology to create a particular "mood" in a room. We also present our 2016 colour report, to share with you some of the trendiest colours to light up your home next year.





#### LOOK OUT FOR...



◀ Add extra depth to your room with 3D digital wallpaper - page 206



▲ Keep your home cool this summer the natural way - page 226



▲ Bang & Olufsen launches a showroom in Melrose Arch - page 243



▲ The SA Home Owner team tries out some of SA's top luxury



#### I love this flora side table, which is lightweight and can be used in any room in your home - be

it a table for your bathing essentials (and that glass of red wine while soaking in the bath); or for that after-dinner cognac while putting your feet up in the living room. Mobelli.co.za



Our beautiful November issue cover had such an amazing response, here are the details of those involved in putting it together:

Photography: Christoph Hoffmann Styling: Annie Fraser Location, furnishings and accessories: Casarredo, Kramerville

I am loving Plascon's 2016 colour palette - moody hues such as Red Wine R1-D1-1 from the Heirloom collection, add elements of absolute luxury!



Update your table setting with titanium rose goldplated cutlery - page 35



A creative workspace is said to enhance productivity - see how on page 244

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#### **CLAIRE MORGAN**

Claire is the business manager of SA Home Owner, and ensures that the magazine runs smoothly and efficiently.

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU: Fair, honest and reliable.

MY HOME IS... my sanctuary.

MY FAVOURITE COLOUR IS... greyish blue.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON COLOUR

**IN YOUR HOME?** Colour is vital in my home; I like to use it to change the mood of a room – to add energy or create tranquillity.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST TREASURED PIECE OF FURNITURE? My expandable wood, glass and stainless-steel dining table.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM IN YOUR HOME? The lounge, as this is where we gather as a family.

THIS DECEMBER I AM... catching my breath in the garden.

SUMMER IS... outdoor entertaining with lazy lunches.

A QUOTE I LIVE BY... Try to at least: "Do what is right, not what is easy."



#### **MONIQUE RANKINE**

Passionate about travelling, Monique is one of our account managers. She is happiest when she sees smiles on her clients' faces. As she says: "If my clients are happy, I'm happy!"

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU: Particular, loving and loyal.

MY HOME IS... my happy place, filled with love and laughter all the time.

MY FAVOURITE COLOUR IS... duck-egg blue. I generally like lighter shades.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON COLOUR IN YOUR HOME? I'm a fan of neutrals and white, with subtle touches of colour. Dark and overly bright colours are not for me.

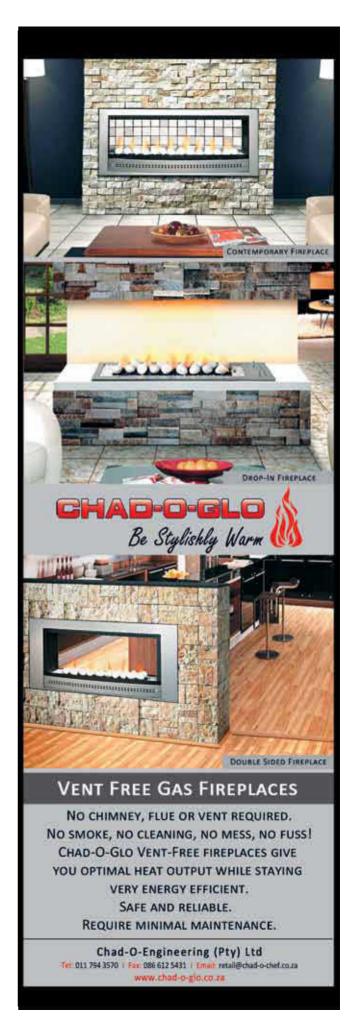
WHAT'S YOUR MOST TREASURED PIECE OF FURNITURE? My bed and couches – I'm a big fan of afternoon naps.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM IN YOUR HOME? Our bedroom. It's pretty, it's comfy, nice and cool in summer.

**THIS DECEMBER I AM...** not going away, unfortunately. I will be staying at home for the first time in three years!

**SUMMER IS...** lying on a beach somewhere exotic, feet covered in beach sand, piña coladas in hand, and palm trees, family and friends... happiness!

**QUOTES I LIVE BY...** "Always treat others as you would like to be treated" and "Your beliefs don't make you a better person; your behaviour does".





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#### **EDITORIAL**

Editor Kerry Hayes, 011 280 5288, kerryh@sahomeowner.co.za Deputy Editor Hasmita Amtha, 011 280 3848, hasmitaa@sahomeowner.co.za Senior Feature Writer Janine Jorgensen, 011 280 5868, janinej@sahomeowner.co.za Feature Writer Esther Moloi, 011 280 5482, estherm@sahomeowner.co.za Online Editor Shereen Lurie, 011 280 5163, shereenl@sahomeowner.co.za Editorial Intern Lindelwa Busakwe 011 280 5784 lindelwah@sahomeowner.co.za Freelance Writers Caroline Dott, Jess Binns, Marianne McDonald

Freelance Sub-editor Joy Capon

Senior Art Director Annie Fraser, 011 280 5730, annief@sahomeowner.co.za Senior Designer Janine Wait, 011 280 5167, janinew@sahomeowner.co.za

#### **ADVERTISING**

National Sales Manager Christell Bisett, 011 280 5450, christellb@sahomeowner.co.za Gauteng Account Managers Monique Rankine, 011 280 5066, moniquer@sahomeowner.co.za

> Candice Jin, 011 280 5638, candicej@sahomeowner.co.za Lorna loakim, 011 280 5486, lornai@sahomeowner.co.za Lara Gordon, 011 280 5063, larag@sahomeowner.co.za Michael Daly, 011 280 3422, michaeld@sahomeowner.co.za

Cape Regional Sales Manager Debbie Zeelie, 021 469 2476, debbiez@sahomeowner.co.za Property Sales Specialist Wadoeda Brenner, 021 469 2493, wadoedab@sahomeowner.co.za Durban Regional Sales Manager Avril Elias, 031 250 8606, avrile@sahomeowner.co.za Property Sales Specialist Catherine De Vincenzo, 031 250 8503, cathdv@sahomeowner.co.za

Freelance Property Co-ordinator Gina Waldman-Balkind

Production Supervisor Tumi Lebooa, 011 280 5050, tumil@sahomeowner.co.za Sales/Production Administrators Siphokazi Mthethwa, 011 280 5719, siphokazim@sahomeowner.co.za Letha Ntsangani

Client Payment Co-ordinator Claudia Davis, 011 280 5287, claudiad@sahomeowner.co.za

#### MARKETING

Marketing Manager Philile Mathebula, 011 280 5062, phililem@sahomeowner.co.za Marketing Co-ordinator Sharon Refilwe Baloyi, 011 280 5289, sharonb@sahomeowner.co.za Marketing Intern Bonisile Mkhize, 011 280 5199, bonisilem@sahomeowner.co.za

#### **CIRCULATION**

Client Liaison Officer Jabulani Mkhize, mkhizej@timesmedia.co.za Commercial Circulation Manager Shaun Smith, smithsh@timesmedia.co.za

#### MANAGEMENT

Business Manager Claire Morgan, 011 280 5783, morganc@sahomeowner.co.za **GM Magazine Division** Jocelyne Bayer Management Accountant Javed Sultan

#### PRINT AND DISTRIBUTION

Printing Paarl Media Gauteng Distribution RNA Subscriptions Times Media Circulation 0860 123 300

#### **GENERAL**

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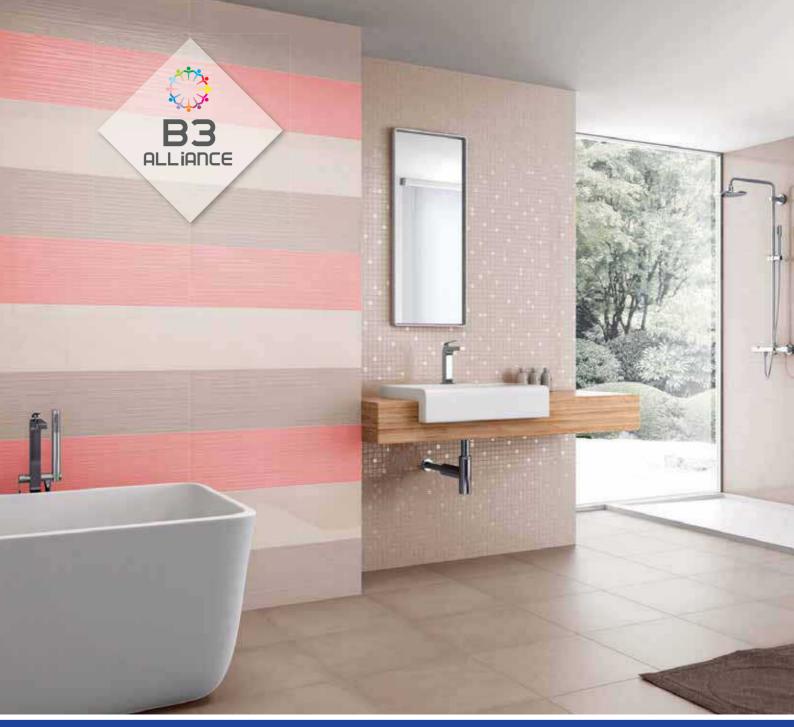












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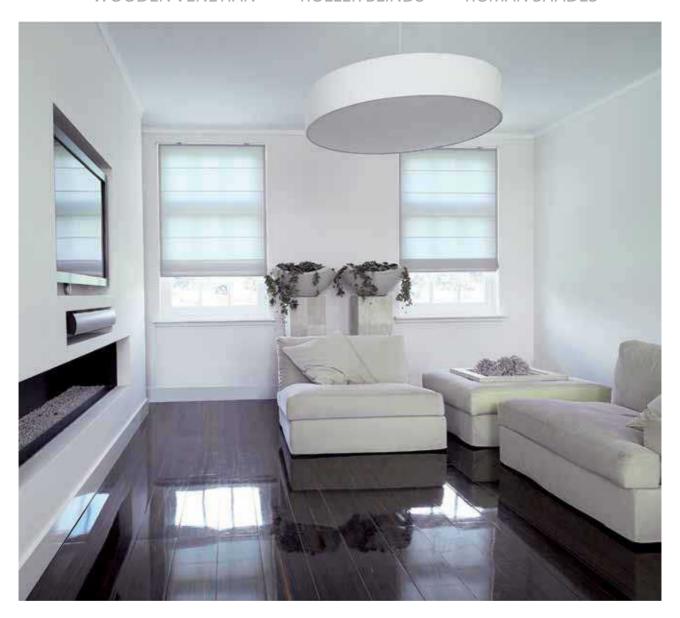
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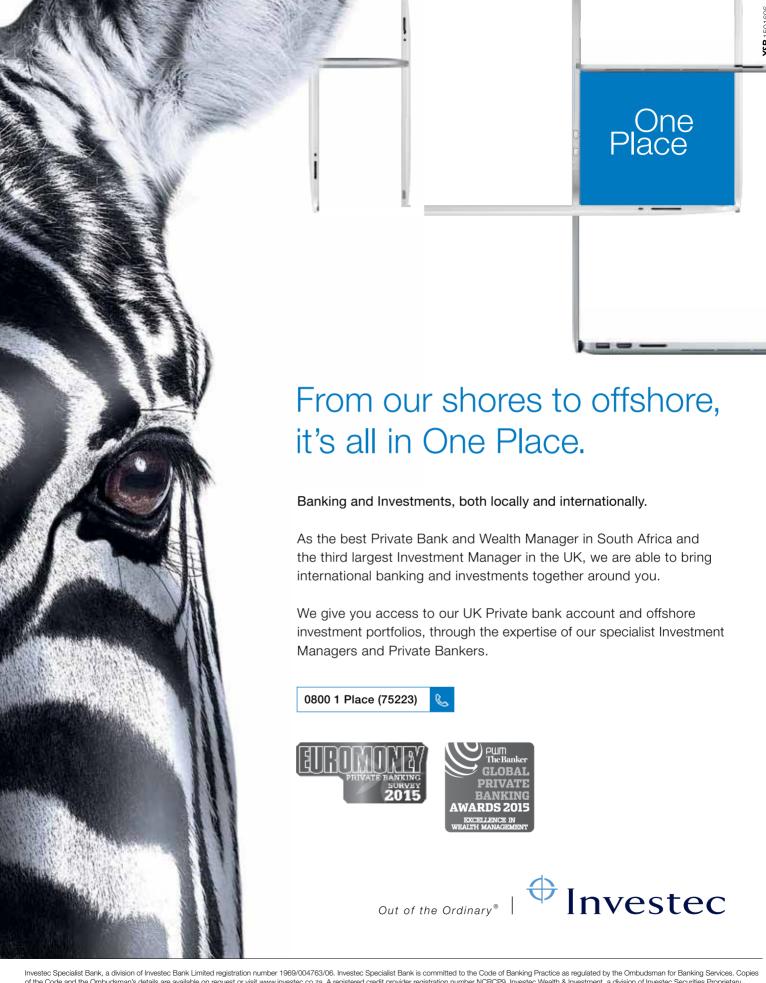


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# THE COLOUR RFPORT

HASMITA AMTHA PRESENTS YOU WITH THE COLOURS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS SUMMER

#### **ROSE QUARTZ**

Like the crystal it's named after, Rose Quartz is a soft shade of pink that brings a sense of beauty to any space. Not guite a pastel, this shade behaves like a neutral and manages to make a difference in a subtle, feminine way. Providing calmness, the colour "reminds us to reflect on our surroundings during the busy, but lighthearted spring and summer months", says Leatrice. Bringing this colour home, Plascon's Element collection has a shade that shares the same softness and feminine appeal. Look out for Savanna R3-E2-3.



rom the runway to your living room, the colours for this season are here to freshen up your home and inject a positive energy with their natural flair.

As Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, says: "The colours are here to transport us to a happier, sunnier place where we feel free to express a wittier version of our real selves."

Bringing not only a change of colour into the home, the 2016 spring/summer colours promise to provide what most individuals are in search of: a soothing and calm space. Here are five colours that will soften your interiors, while keeping them trendy.



#### **PEACH ECHO**

With a bit of a punch, Peach Echo is a cheeky summer colour. A milkier version of coral, it's from the playful orange family and should be used to evoke warmth and add an element of fun. From Dulux's 2016 Colour Futures range, a colour that best matches this shade is 50YR 32/460 - it's the perfect amount of fruitiness!



#### **BUTTERCUP**

"Buttercup is all about sunlight,

happiness and cheer - this one gives us a ray of sunshine; something to be hopeful about. It really energises," says Leatrice. Promising to lift the mood of a space, Buttercup is the sunny shade of yellow and should be used as a contrast to the spring/summer palette. You can find a similar shade in Plascon's Connect collection. Connect is upbeat, confident and bold in nature, and Panorama Lights Y4-A1-2 represents this perfectly.



#### **ICED COFFEE**

Another strong neutral for the season, Iced Coffee has a natural quality that helps to ground a space. Paired with metallics, you can instantly glam up this humble colour; and if teamed up with Peach Echo, you can create a good balance of colour. From Dulux's 2016 Colour Futures, you can find a similar shade - 20YY 38/225 - under Dulux's warm neutral range.

#### **SERENITY**

Inspired by the clear blue skies of a summer day, Serenity is like a breath of fresh air - weightless and airy. With a calming effect, this shade of blue provides comfort, and encourages you to relax and enjoy the outdoors. m

With thanks to Dulux, Pantone Color Institute and Plascon

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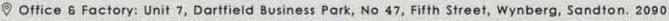
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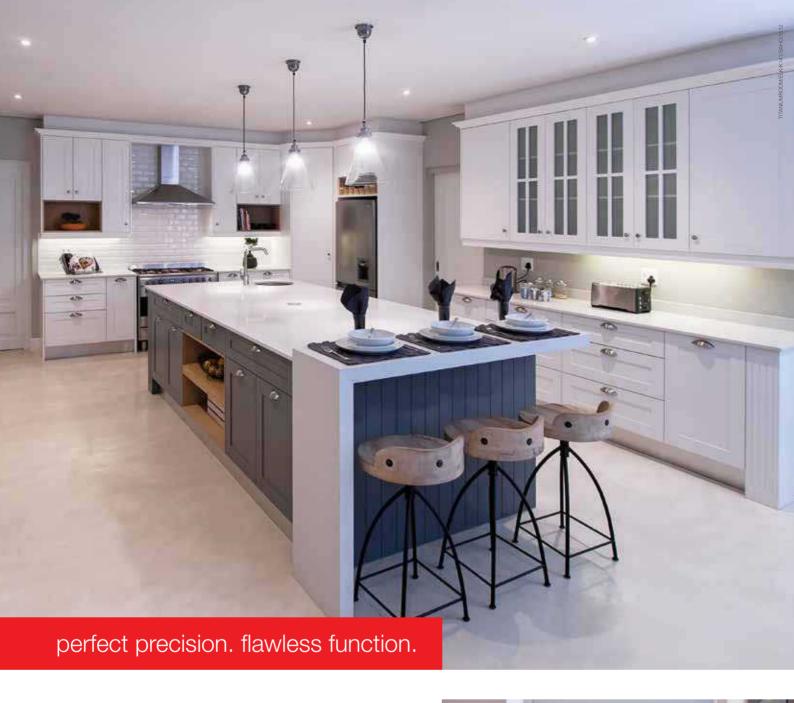
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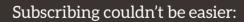
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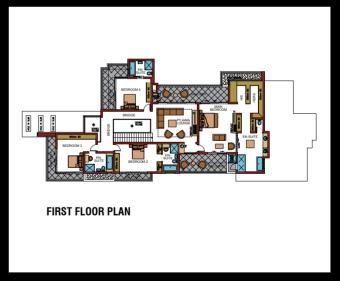
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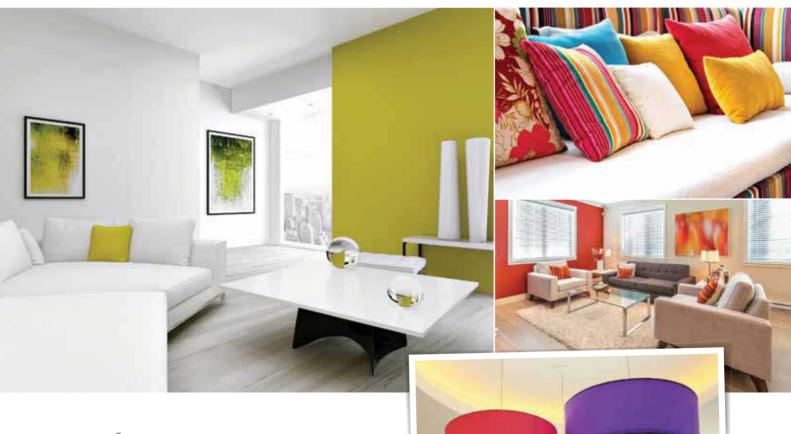
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# aguideto...

Adding bright colour to your home - BY DAVE NEMETH



burst of colour can enhance a home, but be careful not to make it too busy, creating an overwhelming and unnerving space that is anything but relaxing. The biggest mistakes with colour often come in the largest areas, namely the walls.

There are a number of things to consider when you are planning to add a bright and dominant colour into a space. The three most important factors are:

- 1. The overall size of the room;
- 2. The height of the ceilings; and
- 3. The amount of natural light that enters into the space. All of these will play a major role in getting the overall scheme to work.

If you don't have a large room and the ceilings are standard height, but you do have ample natural light streaming in, you may want to consider painting just one wall boldly. A feature wall works very well in a limited space and still allows for that funky, fresh splash of colour. If you have very high ceilings and want a colour burst, adding a bright colour to a ceiling can also bring an immediate new look to a room. Just remember that if you try this on standard ceilings, it will make the room seem smaller.

Just as you need to be careful when painting large surfaces, so too should you act with caution when looking at brightly coloured furniture. A bright-red sofa

will immediately bring character into a room, but you could easily tire of the colour and a replacement fabric will be a costly exercise. The better bet is to select an occasional chair or ottoman for bold and courageous treatment with accessories.

Accessories are generally the best route to go to add bright colour to a space, due to the fact that they can be changed seasonally for a completely different look and feel. These can include scatter cushions, objets d'art, lampshades and wall art.

With roller blinds currently being so on trend, you may want to consider adding a splash of colour here. Technological advances with these even allow for them to be printed with different designs or artwork.

When it comes to colour, there are no hard-and-fast rules. Go out and experiment - but plan carefully, to 



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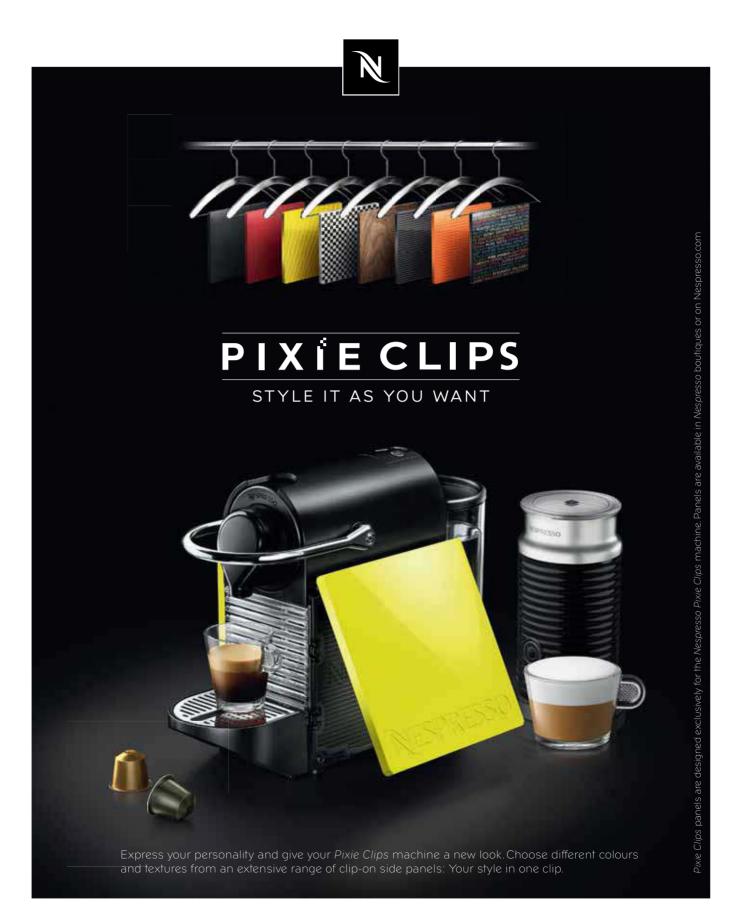
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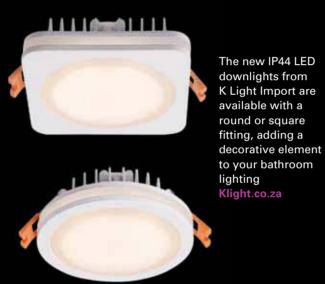
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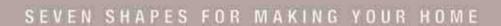






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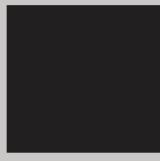
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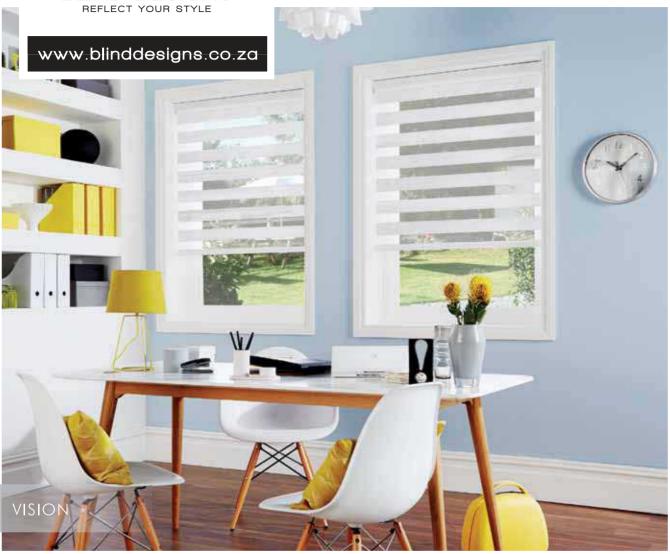


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PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID ROSS AND BAREND ROBERTS





o escape to the country often means going away for a weekend free of traffic and bright city lights. The owners of this house, however, don't have to venture far, as their country retreat is, in fact, home.

Situated on a golf estate between Pretoria and Johannesburg, the property offers uninterrupted rural views, which the designer wanted to incorporate into the design of the house. Another factor that had to be taken into account was the estate's parameters for building, which included a pitched roof and specific natural materials. And the owners wanted plenty of space for outdoor living and entertaining.

From all of this, the design evolved into a "contemporary farmhouse", says the designer. It is airy, due to double-volume ceilings, and practical, with an open-plan layout, while exhibiting a modern style that is free of unnecessary decorative elements.

The house was positioned to face north, so that it would benefit from garden vistas in every room



Linking the upstairs to the ground floor is the timber staircase, a feature in its own right as it floats above the floor plane















and natural light all year round, with overhangs providing protection in summer, but allowing the sun to enter the rooms in the winter months.

The ground floor is dedicated to open-plan living, with the kitchen, dining room and sitting area flowing easily into one another and – when the frameless, folding doors are open – to the outdoors, where the lanai becomes an extension of the space. Here there are additional dining and seating areas, a bar, and a braai for entertaining or a casual family meal.

Linking the upstairs to the ground floor is the timber staircase, a feature in its own right as it floats above the floor plane, with the wall clad in natural stone to form a backdrop for the striking sculpture at the entrance of the house.

A bridge with a glass balustrade connects the two upstairs sections of the house, with the en-suite children's bedrooms on the western side and the main bedroom situated on the east wing. The bedrooms all have access to the outdoors through their own balconies.

With such spaciousness, and an extensive use of glass, the interior designer chose furnishings for a welcoming, comfortable ambience,

**ABOVE** In the kitchen, a neutral palette provides a clean, sophisticated look. To add character to the space, blu\_line incorporated different textures and levels. The company also had to consider the open-plan nature of the architecture, so it used floating cabinetry to combine the areas. Sliding systems for the doors ensure a seamless appearance. blu\_line offers locally designed and manufactured high-end kitchens, which are authentic, yet functional, to meet the demands of modern living.







In each area, a limited palette of softer colours has been used, such as the white and wood kitchen or grey-toned master bedroom, which adds to the atmosphere of tranquillity



making use of warm, natural materials, such as wood and stone; and motifs of nature, including a nod to the rural environment with a pair of sheep sculptures in the living area.

In each area, a limited palette of softer colours has been used, such as the white and wood kitchen or greytoned master bedroom, which adds to the atmosphere of tranquillity.

The finishes also remain true to the architecture of the home, emphasising modern, clean lines that would not detract from the beauty of the surroundings.

The overall result is visual continuity in every aspect of the 

### **CONTACT:**

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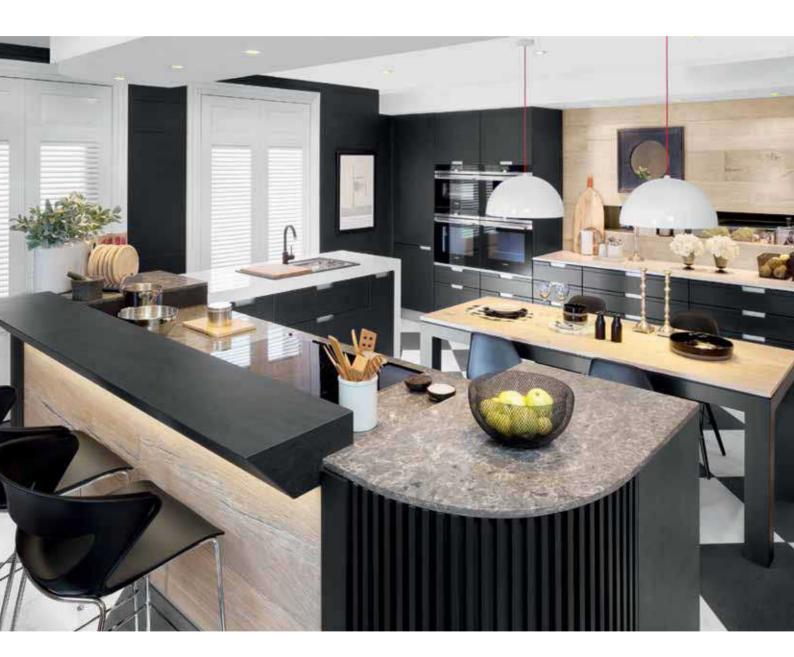
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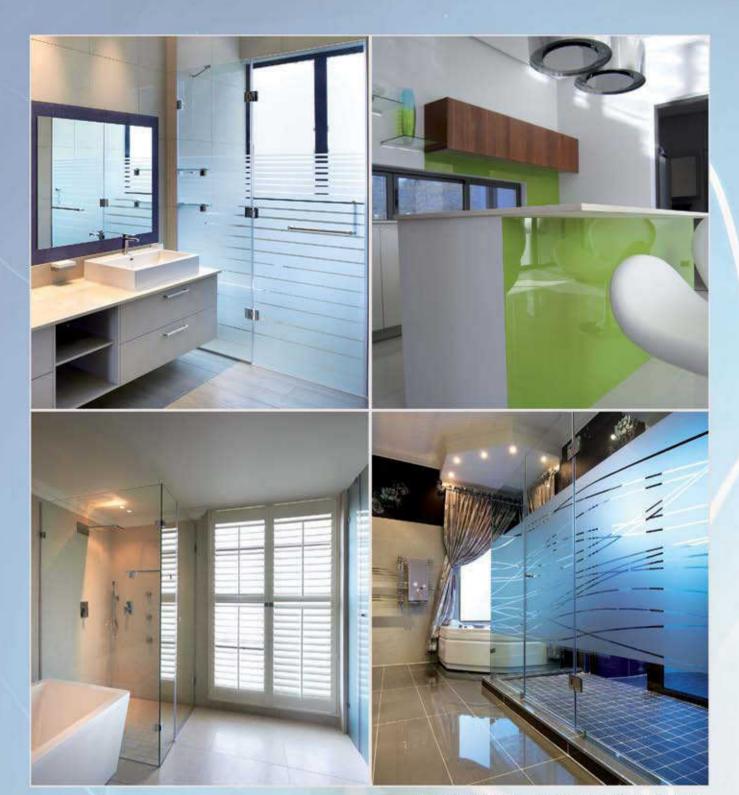


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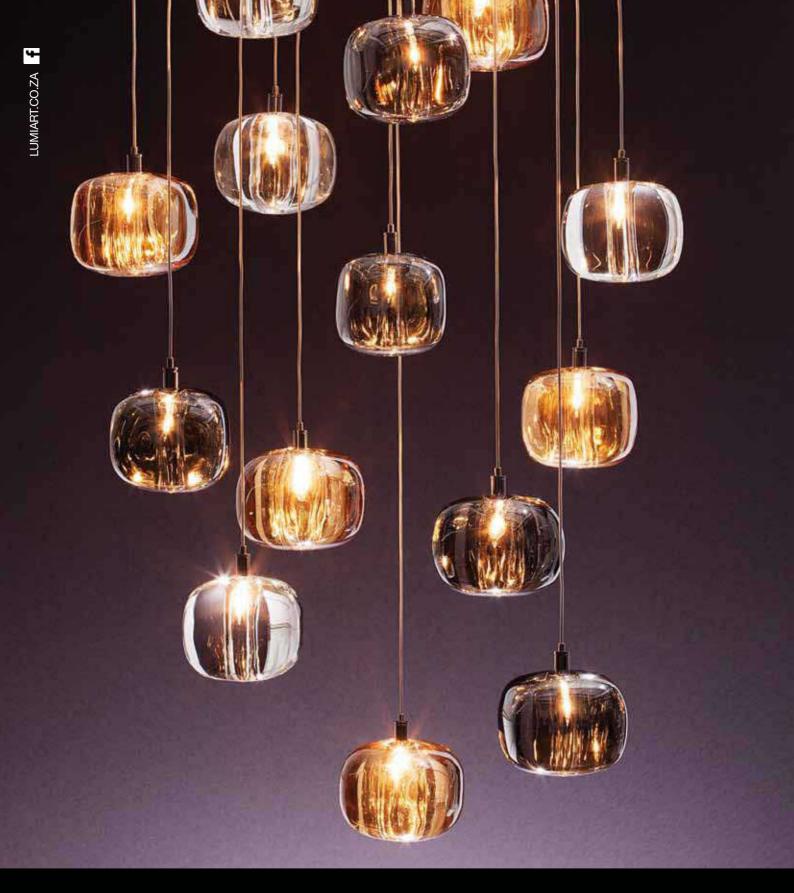
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hat was planned as a holiday home soon became the main residence for this KwaZulu-Natal couple. As they were based inland, weekend beach trips to the gloriousNorth Coast were part of the family's ritual. So it was only natural that when a piece of land came up for sale some eight years ago, the offer was too good to pass up.

"We were at our daughter's water polo tournament at the time,"

**ABOVE LEFT:** Ballito-based Ewald Plekker Architects was responsible for the design of this home. Specialising in luxury homes on the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast, the practice concentrates on creating beautiful, easy-to-livein spaces that work together as a whole. For projects small or large, it's the most important aspect in creating a home in which to live and love.



A mix of render and clapboard on the exterior is finished in a chalky blue tone, nodding to its neighbour, the Indian Ocean

explains the owner. "My husband picked up a property magazine and, while flicking through, saw the advert. It was such a rare opportunity that we called the agent there and then and, in a nutshell, drove there, said yes and drove back, all in our daughter's hour-and-a-half break from matches!"

However, it was only in the last few years that the land

was developed, and a last-minute decision was made that this would become their permanent home. Flirting with the fringes of the Sheffield Beach shoreline, the house can only be described as the ultimate "beach house".

A mix of render and clapboard to the exterior is finished in a chalky blue tone, nodding to its neighbour, the Indian Ocean. To connect with the home's surroundings, almost

**BELOW LEFT:** Imbizo Gallery, based in Ballito, is a fine art gallery and consultancy that provides a complete art experience, from sourcing and commissioning to framing and the hanging of art for private and corporate clients. The gallery boasts a wide variety of artwork to cater for every taste and requirement.

**BOTTOM:** The owners opted for Plantation Shutters shutters to complement the open-plan nature of their home. Security and solid timber Plantation shutters provide an elegant solution, both for safety and air flow. A low solar absorption coating was added to the shutters, assisting the home's "off the grid" credentials.







all of the ground-floor rooms open out onto the greyed timber deck facing the sea, maximising its location. A large pool sunk into the deck area make for a perfect setting to enjoy lazy, balmy summer days with family and friends, and the striking braai area with its cool-to-the-touch concrete counters.

Inside, the house is awash with natural light, echng off the white walls. The kitchen, also white and classic in style, is finished with oak surfaces and display shelves, a timeless and attractive feature that sets it apart from conventional kitchen designs.

The tranquillity of coastal life is reflected in the decor throughout the house. Cool blues and teals are paired with sandy neutrals, alongside pops of lemon, yellow and pink.

While still under the impression that this was to be their second home, the owner purchased some of the furniture items from auctions; these then received makeovers to revitalise them and bring them up to date.

The blend of vintage furnishings within the contemporary setting gives it a lived-in, relaxed look, without being overbearing. Giant, squashy sofas fit in happily with ornate filigree chairs. Bright, zesty stools add a lighthearted element, as does the fine art that adorns the walls.

**ABOVE:** Adding elegance and luxury to this kitchen is the Saeco Royal Professional coffee machine from Italian Lifestyle. Bringing the taste of Italy conveniently to your home, this dynamic company imports and distributes a unique portfolio of Italian coffee machines, coffee and kitchenware for homes and offices throughout South Africa.

**RIGHT:** Adsolar was tasked with designing and installing an alternative energy system that would provide an electrical supply, independent of the national grid. Using specialist DC power generation and battery backup skills, the company stands by its motto, "what we do works", ensuring that the lights stay on in this coastal home.



This decor sentiment mirrors the home owner's personality. "If I like something, I buy it; then I'll find a home for it."

Not only visually striking, this home is also "off the grid", as solar panels drink in the sun to provide electricity. Underground JoJo tanks serve the watering of the garden, adding to the home's "green" credentials.

Although every area of the house is beautiful and comfortable, the treasured space is a small courtyard off the kitchen. Here you'll find the owner pottering over her herbs or enjoying a coffee, sheltered from the coastal winds, in peace and quiet.

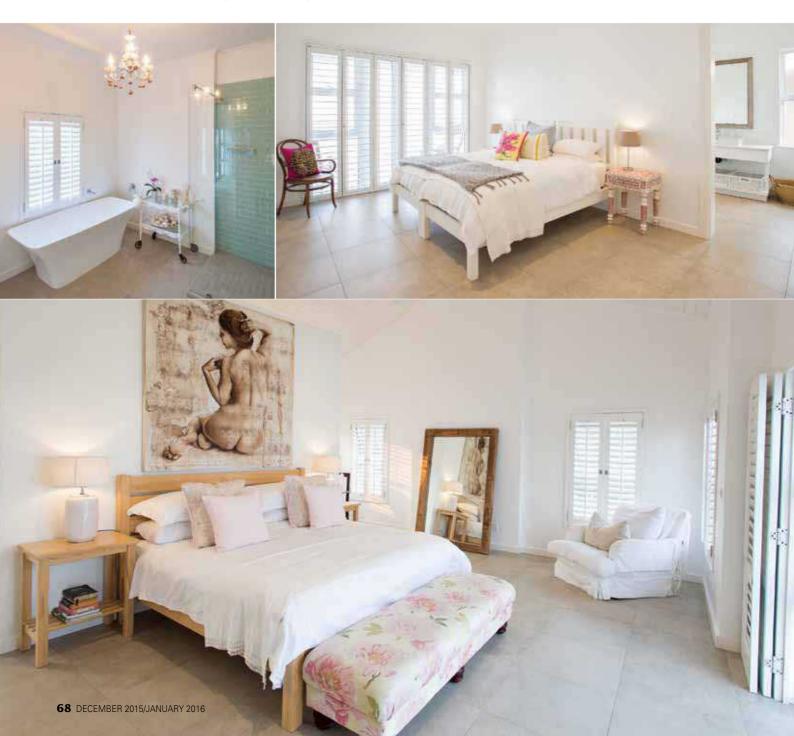
The kitchen is also a favourite; what could beat watching whales out at sea while preparing lunch? "This home is so peaceful. At night I hear nothing; the ocean

lulls you to sleep. I can't believe how lucky I am to live somewhere like this." 🏛

### CONTACT:

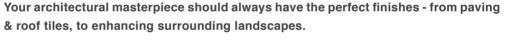
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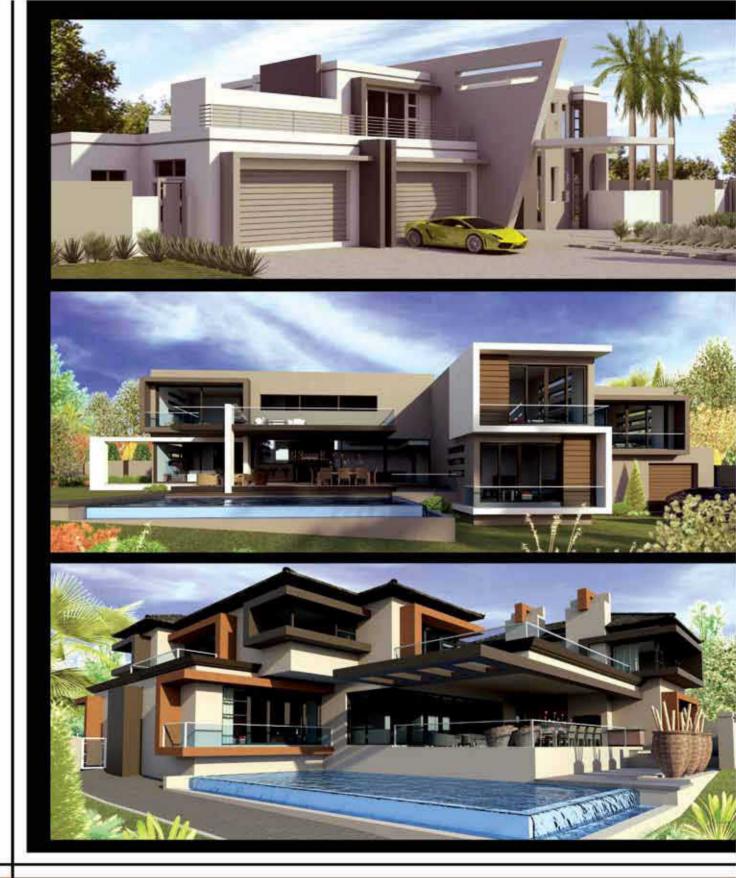




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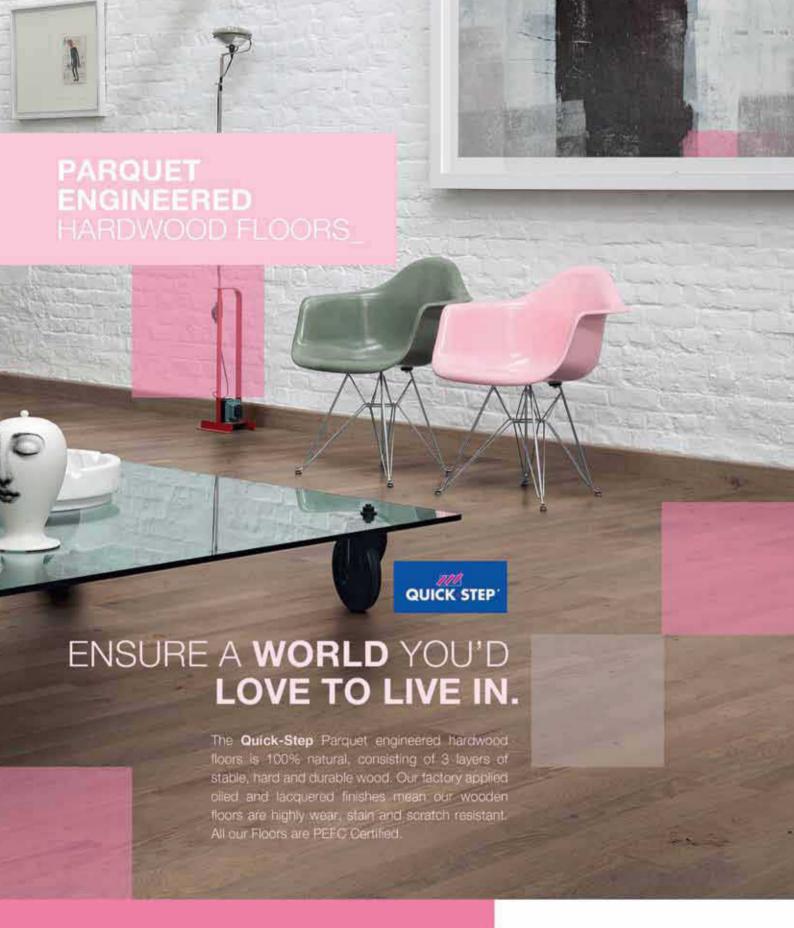


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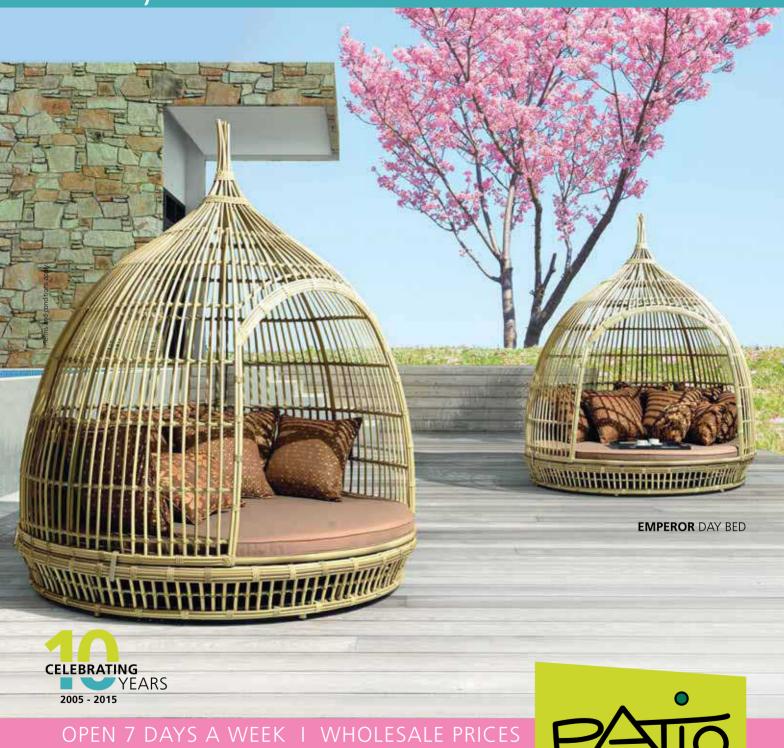


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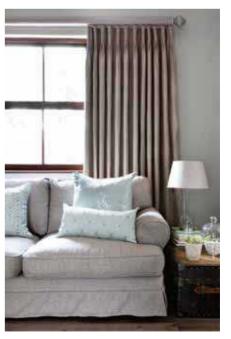


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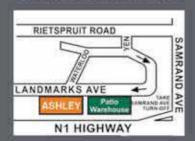




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#### where to find us









eauty is precious; and more precious is a combination of beauty, space, comfort, style and home. This property, in the heart of the Western Cape, is an unknown treasure of hectares of cultivated land, modern decor and a home that epitomises comfortable, tasteful family living.

The home itself is simply and impeccably decorated; the owners are art enthusiasts, and wooden and metal sculptures, paintings and prints embellish the walls and hallways.

Each space in the home is designed so that it is

optimised for light and function. The downstairs entrance is open plan – the whole floor can be seen from the front door.

The living area is in the foreground, featuring cosy seating around a wooden table, and insured for cold weather with an indoor fire. The neighbouring sitting room is comfortably arranged for the home owners to relax in a private setting, or to enjoy an afternoon with their guests - optimum sunlight and extensive views make for the ideal space to unwind and take in the surrounds.

Two bedrooms take up the first floor and overlook the central living room from a balcony that wraps around the

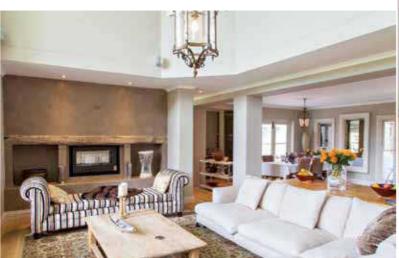
Guests are invited to tastings, picnics and walks, and weekend stayovers allow for a full appreciation of the home and the greater region



**RIGHT:** Being nature lovers, these home owners want to be able to soak in all they can of the outdoors from every room in the home. Frameless wooden stacking doors by Forest Creations allow for uninterrupted views, but offer the benefits of sound and weather insulation when closed.

three interior walls. The balcony is fitted with Americanstyle shutters to control the inflow of sunlight and maintain an air of privacy. Both en suite and with wooden floors, the bedrooms are homely and personal.

The master bedroom is spacious and boasts an outdoor balcony that overlooks the front entrance to the home, and beyond. The bathroom is a particular treasure – large and with a view that extends over the valley. A cosy shower or bath with a vista is a luxurious way to end







**LEFT:** The engineered French oak flooring and staircase treads in this home were installed by Forest Flooring, a specialist in furniture, flooring and design. The home owner chose a high-quality product in a natural colour, to fit in with the rest of the home. The wood was finished with Rubio monocoat oil.

**BELOW:** Stacking doors, manufactured and installed by Ambassador Doors and Windows, allow airy breezes and the sounds of the outdoors to flow into, or be blocked out of, the living room of this home. The doors conveniently slide back into varied positions, packing away neatly for seamless views and indoor/outdoor living.

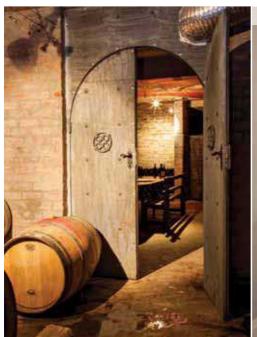
a long day exploring the farm, as these owners do. The family pets are treated to long walks through the property daily as the owners look over their present and future projects, including an orchard, a sustainable fruit and vegetable plantation, and a prosperous vineyard.

The home owners have cultivated wine as a hobby, and have a fully operational production and storage cellar. Guests are invited to tastings, picnics and walks, and weekend stay-overs allow for a full appreciation of the home and the greater region.

A guest room detached from the main house has the feeling of a loft apartment. Wooden floors and ceilings, and country-style decor combine effortlessly into a mini holiday destination that it is easily kept cosy for the winter months or dressed down for the summer heat, making it an ideal spot for a weekend visitor.

"It's almost like looking up from the bottom of a snow globe," muses the home owner as she looks up and around from a spot in the garden. 360-degree views from any point on the property allow one to feel a million miles











**TOP RIGHT:** For a kitchen that did not appear "over-designed", the home owner selected independent pieces that harmoniously complement one another and the design of the room. Osterwald & Sons Cabinetmakers installed the bespoke drawers, pantry and oak vitrine in the kitchen, ensuring the perfect fit for every piece.

**ABOVE:** This open-plan home needed a solution that would close off the upstairs master bedroom from incoming light, and from the living room it overlooks. Plantation Shutters installed floating timber shutters, designed to slide open to either side. The shutters are finished in Satin White with Satin Chrome ironmongery.





LEFT: Keeping consistent with naturallooking, simple and elegant furniture and fittings, the home owners installed JDW Glass frameless showers. The open-plan guest room is spacious and light, and looks out onto the front lawn and the masses of forestry beyond. The frameless glass shower is made of toughened safety glass, supplied with custom fittings, and emphasises the natural, peaceful look and feel of the room, and the home as a whole. Advantageous positioning allows guests incoming light and views of the outdoors.

away, and call for a new appreciation of the small things that make a house a home. **m** 

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### <LOOKING BOTH WAYS>

COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2016 MONARCH GOLD 20YY 36/370







The importance of weighing up opposite opinions and views has never been stronger – Global Dulux Aesthetic Centre, Netherlands.

This year, South Africa's most loved point brand, Dulux reveals that the overriding trend for 2016 is 'Looking both Ways' as we look for inspiration from the past to be able to design for the future.

By collaborating with international design experts, we are able to identify long term, evolving trends in architecture, fashion as well as colour and translate these insights into an accessible range of cutting-edge trends and colour palettes that we can all recognise.

Duality is the driving influence for 2016 and is embedded in the Colour of the Year as well as the following distinctive themes - **Heritage & Future, Words & Pictures, Dark & Light** and **The Grid & Letting Go**.



# Monarch Gold

20YY 36/370

### **COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2016**

& COLOUR OF THE YEAR PALETTE

#### Gold and Gold tones are being used everywhere in the design world

This colour and its nuances have become a prominent influence in fields that span graphic design, architecture, fashion, beauty as well as interior decorating.

**Dulux Monarch Gold** - a colour that reflects richness in heritage, is both bright enough to attract attention and combines beautifully with the sophisticated palette we've identified for 2016. You can combine **Dulux Monarch Gold** with muted pink and relaxed neutrals for an intriguing opulent effect or pastel blue-greens and bold rich yellow for something more surprising.

Download the Dulux Visualizer<sup>m</sup> app for free and picture the Dulux Colour of the Year – **Monarch Gold** 20YY36/37O on your walls.

RUM CARAMEL 1

SALISBURY STONES 3

SEA URCHIN 4

HIGHLAND FALLS 4

COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2016 MONARCH GOLD 20YY 36/370





Heleen Van Gent Creative Director AkzoNobel Global Aesthetic Center



MONARCH GOLD

SALISBURY STONES 3

SOFT CINNEBAR 5

# DARK&Light

### Celebrate the night by enjoying the mystery and beauty of the dark.

Just as we need darkness in order to see the stars in the night sky more clearly, the play of light is best portrayed in contrast to dark hues. Many of the colours in this palette blend seamlessly together, recalling the tones of both dusk and dawn during the 'golden hour.'

Download the Dulux Visualizer™ app for free and picture any colour from The Dulux **Dark & Ligh**t colour palette on your walls.









MARASCHINO MOCHA 1

SOFT MAPLEWOOD 1 AZURE FUSION 1



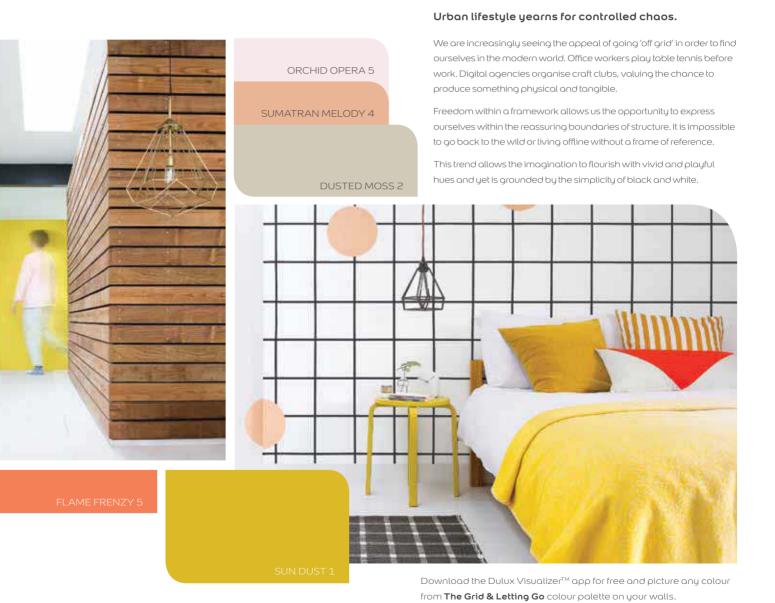
MOON WAVES 1

ORCHID OPERA 5 TARRAGON GLORY 6 FLAME FRENZY 5





# THE GRID & Letting go



## Words&**PICTURES**

WILD MUSHROOM 4

MARBLE SWIRL 6



#### There is a new found power in graphics and statements.

The old phrase "a picture paints a thousand words" has now almost become reversed, since words, whether spoken or written, are forever being squeezed in our fast-paced lives. They are restricted and shortened on social media, while we increasingly communicate using pictures alone. As a consequence, there is a new found power in words — the art of traditional storytelling is thriving in clubs and societies devoted to its ability to captivate the imagination.

This trend can be seen in architecture and interior design through the use of lettering; but rather being in opposition to images, the one completes the other.

The corresponding colour palette uses the blue of ink and grey of graphite in contrast to the pastel like tones familiar with smartphone and social media filters.







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# IN THE WIL

#### BY ESTHER MOLOI • PROJECT CONSULTANT MONIQUE RANKINE PHOTOGRAPHY NIC BALETA

t was in the Meyersdal Eco Estate that this family of four found their home. "We just love being one with nature," the home owner says.

When these home owners decided to build their dream home, they knew they wanted open spaces, a large area in which to entertain, and they wanted to include a lot of the outdoors in their home. It also needed to be the perfect home for their 10-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter.

This led to a brief to the architect which included creating a kitchen that would be the hub of the home, accessing the

courtyard and garden easily. "We wanted a centre courtyard which could be viewed from various rooms in the house, especially the kitchen. I felt that adding that would give our home a cosy feeling," expresses the home owner.

The house enjoys large windows that add to the airy and natural feel. A house that is warm in winter and cool in summer was also of importance to the home owners, and for that they included double-glazed windows and underfloor heating using water that is heated by solar panels.

The home is modern, with a farm-style influence, which can





**LEFT:** With this home situated in an eco-estate, it was important for the owners to look to a design that incorporated a range of natural elements. Earthy tones and textures were combined with a nature-inspired look using wood, stone cladding and a lot of the indigenous vegetation.









be seen through the use of stone and wood. "We wanted our home to blend in seamlessly with the nature that surrounds us," explains the home owner. Neutral colours form the base of most of the furnishings, with a few pops of colour, and the furniture is a combination of various forms of wood and leather.

With their home in an eco estate, certain guidelines had to be followed in the building process. Some of the regulations included using green building methods, and planting only indigenous plants, which assisted in creating a

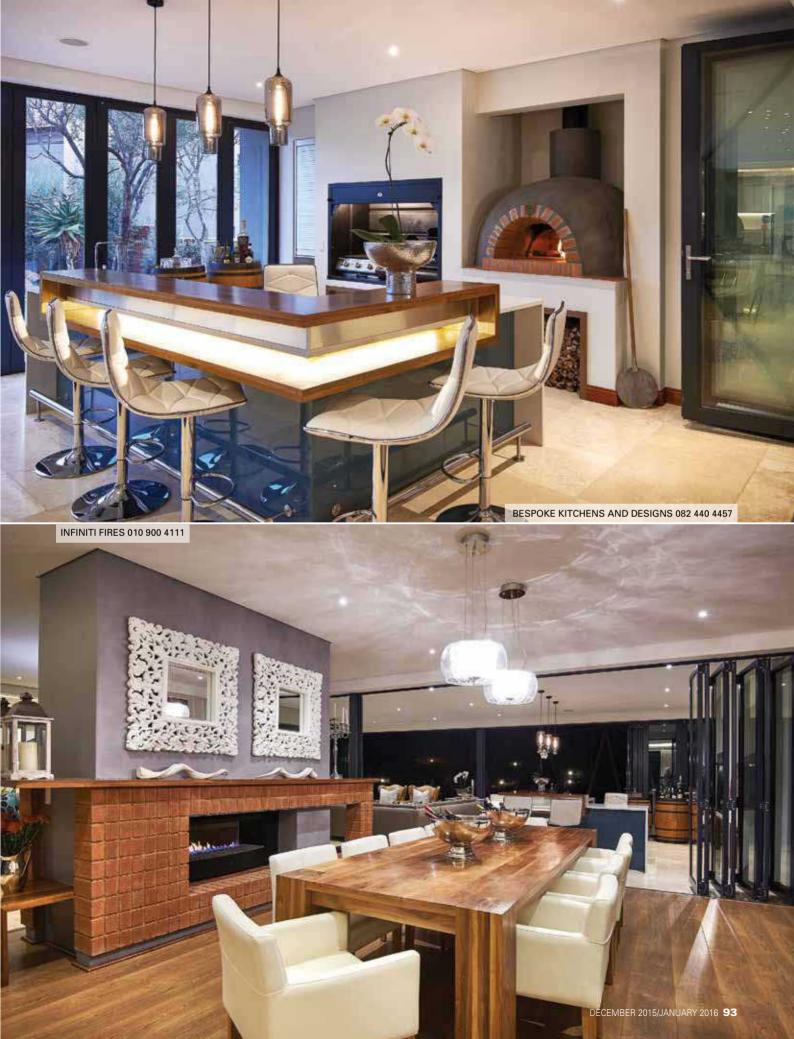
**LEFT:** Mordt Engineering installed frameless glass balustrading to achieve a sophisticated look that would enhance the design of the home. The 12mm-thick frameless mounted glass panels with a stainless steel sidemounted rectangular handrail added an elegant and contemporary appeal. Mordt Engineering offers its clients superior service and quality.

OPPOSITE PAGE ABOVE: The home owner's love for entertaining meant that the home bar, situated in the entertainment area, had to be exceptional. Bespoke Kitchens and Designs took on the task of creating an eyecatching unit, using solid American walnut, Snow White Caesarstone and back-painted glass to ensure that the bar fitted in well in the open-plan space, and complemented the use of neutrals in the home. Bespoke Kitchens and Designs specialises in custom furniture to suit any home owner's requirements.

**OPPOSITE PAGE BELOW:** For this open-plan living area, the home owner opted for a double-sided flueless gas fireplace from Infiniti Fires. This particular unit proved to be the perfect solution, as it produces enough heat for the whole area at the flick of a switch. Infiniti Fires' flueless gas fireplaces are designed to operate without a chimney, and the unit comes with a choice of seven stylish frame options, to fit in with the interior scheme of any home.









The home is modern, with a farm-style influence, which can be seen through the use of stone and wood

home that was a perfect retreat in the wild. "I love being able to look out into my garden and see an antelope or giraffe nearby. There are also a lot of walking trails we can enjoy, and it's lovely to know that I can enjoy all of this in a very secure area," says the home owner.

#### **CONTACT:**

**BESPOKE KITCHENS AND DESIGNS – cabinetry** 082 440 4457, rene@bespokekd.co.za, www.bespokekd.co.za

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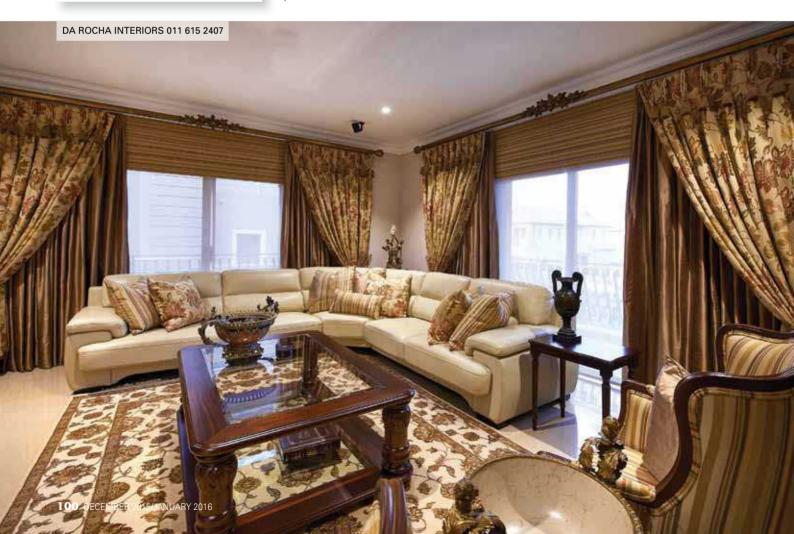


**BELOW:** Warm tones of gold and green, and a comfortable vanilla leather corner suite balance the more opulent features of the lounge, such as the layered window drapery, Persian rug and dark wooden furniture, to create an inviting, yet elegant ambience. While each room has its own essence, the interiors of the home tie together, as Da Rocha Interiors has kept certain elements, such as the colour palette and style of furniture, the same throughout the house.

he owners of this home are lovers of classic style, so it's no surprise that their vision for the house, both architecturally and in the interiors, was to create a timeless, elegant space.

Being Portuguese, they also wanted to bring Mediterranean elements into the design, such as heritage-style furniture, porcelain-tiled floors and wrought-iron balustrading.

The kitchen follows this brief, decorated in a French Provencal scheme, with a large table to gather around, traditional cabinetry, and accents of blue and white. "It's my favourite room in the house," says the home owner. "It's picture-perfect, yet practical."





From here, it's an easy transition to the dining room and to the outside, due to the open-plan layout of the living area. Stackable doors open to the patio, which has its own outdoor kitchen, and to one of the home's unique features, a Portuguese-style tavern.

In addition to these options for entertaining, there's a separate outdoor area with a pizza oven, for relaxed gatherings on warm evenings.

Inside, Persian rugs soften the tiled floors, and a warm palette of gold and green tones has been applied throughout

the interiors. "We wanted a homely, yet chic aesthetic," says the home owner, which is a fine balance to achieve.

In the furnishings, a combination of patterns, such as stripes and florals, and textures, including tweed, silk, velvet and leather, provides interest and a playful contrast with the collection of dark wooden furniture and more ornate accessories, such as gilded table lamps, finials and decorative mirrors.

The welcoming atmosphere has not lost a sense of luxury. In the master bedroom, for example, a chandelier hangs

**ABOVE:** The Drop-in 1000 gas-fuelled fireplace from Chad-O-Chef is ideal for warming up large spaces. The built-in unit is made of stainless steel, with matt black, heat-resistant paint and fire-glass or ceramic fire pebbles. The system has a sleek finish, which complements the style of the home. As with all Chad-O-Chef fireplaces, it is vent-free gas, and has been approved by the LP Gas Safety Association of South Africa.

**RIGHT:** The entrance boasts double-volume ceilings, large front doors, wrought-iron balustrading, a chandelier and an ornate gold mirror for a grand first impression. It's the attention to detail that makes this house a home, says the owner, such as the hand-carved table and preserved roses, which welcome you in.



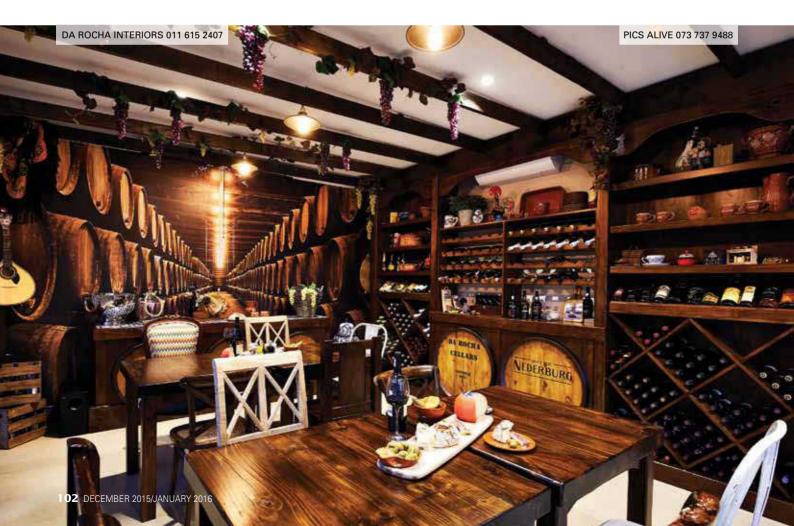


**LEFT:** Da Rocha Interiors designed the dining room to be a formal space. The heavily hand-carved wooden furniture, which anchors the room, is stately, and is paired with rich fabrics of tweed on the dining chairs and woven silk for the curtains. The overall effect is one of classic elegance.

**BELOW:** A unique feature of the house is the wine cellar, which has been designed as a Portuguese-style taverna, with atmospheric rustic cabinetry, dummy wine barrels and themed wallpaper. Here the owners can relax with family and friends over a glass of wine and a cheese board.

The wall art in the wine cellar consists of images of wine barrels that recede into the background, to create the illusion of space. Pics Alive, which supplied the polyurethane fabric wallpaper, specialises in stretched canvas printing, fabric printing, vinyl on Perspex, wallpaper, photo restoration and collages.

Being Portuguese, they also wanted to bring Mediterranean elements into the design, such as heritage-style furniture, porcelain-tiled floors and wrought-iron balustrading







above the carved bed, and there's a generous walk-in wardrobe with ample storage for clothes and accessories.

All of the bedrooms are en suite, featuring spacious showers and baths, and there's a combined study/gym for a private workout.

The owners decided to go with a turnkey interior design service, to avoid costly

**BELOW:** In this bedroom, Da Rocha Interiors created a playful, contemporary style using different colours and patterns, such as stripes and florals, which have been combined with the white and mahogany tones of the wood. The company specialises in turnkey interior design solutions, to offer customers a complete service.

mistakes and to get their vision for the home right from the start of the project. The approach has paid off.

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TOP: Suite collection by Fischer Moebel | LEFT: Dango light by 21st Livingart | RIGHT: Persa shade system by Metaform



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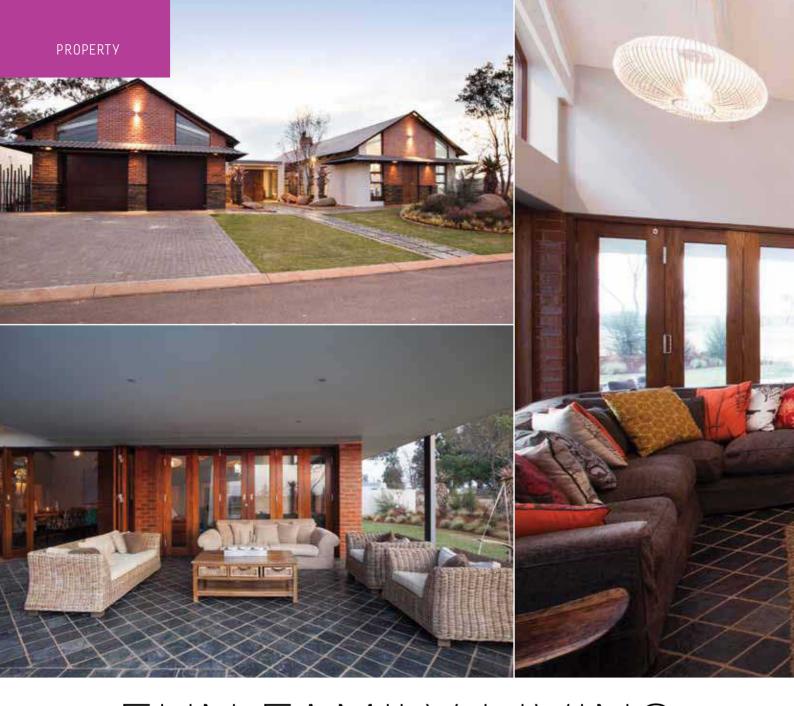
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# FUN FAMILY LIVING

BY MARIANNE MCDONALD • PROJECT CONSULTANT LORNA IOAKIM PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE • PHOTOGRAPHY IRMA BOSCH

hen tablets and TV started to take over family time, these home owners decided that a change was in order. "The main aim for us, when building this home, was to create an environment where playing outside and interacting with friends was not only possible, but fun."

The husband-and-wife team embarked on the project together, opting for a farm-style home that embraced light and open spaces, and offered no

barriers to the natural surroundings right on their doorstep.

The main bedroom in this four-bedroom home features an open-plan lounge area with fireplace, where the family gather for a quiet evening together. But the kids have free reign over the rest of the house. "The social area of the house is all open-plan, as we wanted a flow between the lounge, kitchen, dining room and TV room. There is a separate study, which doubles as a homework and art room for the



**ABOVE:** The fireplaces in this home are the central hubs for family gatherings, with striking facebrick surrounds setting them up as focal points in the space. This rustic feel continues throughout the home, with feature facebrick walls living happily next to plastered walls and glass sliding doors.





## The decor of the home reflects the family's sense of fun and was largely inspired by local designers







ABOVE: AIF Design Architects was tasked with bringing to life the home owner's vision of a family-friendly; farm-style home. This was achieved through an H-shaped layout, which offered openplan social areas and easy access to the outdoors, with a focus on natural light and earthy finishes.

children, although dad thought this room would be his domain."

But despite all of this space and the options available, the patio is the family's favourite space in the home, and is already filled with memories of fun times with family and friends.

The decor of the home reflects the family's sense of fun and was largely inspired by local designers. Natural, hardy finishes such as slate floors, timber doors and window frames, and exposed facebrick sit happily alongside bright fabrics featuring local insignia such as proteas, gemsbok and the South African Coat of Arms.

One of the family's best memories of moving into their new home was putting up the house number together on the night before they moved in. "When you are as involved as we chose to be in the design and building of the house, there is definitely a feeling of pride and a sense of achievement when walking into the finished home," they explain.

#### **CONTACT**:

AIF DESIGN ARCHITECTS – architecture
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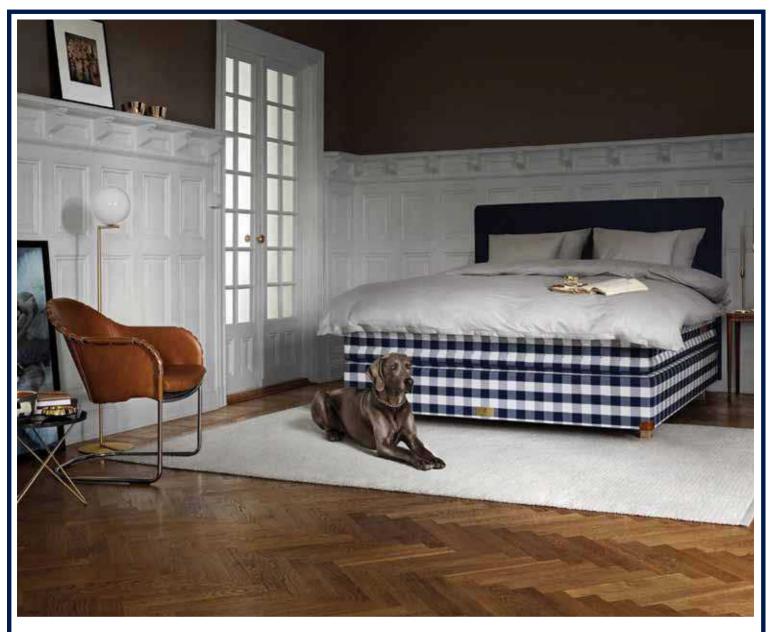












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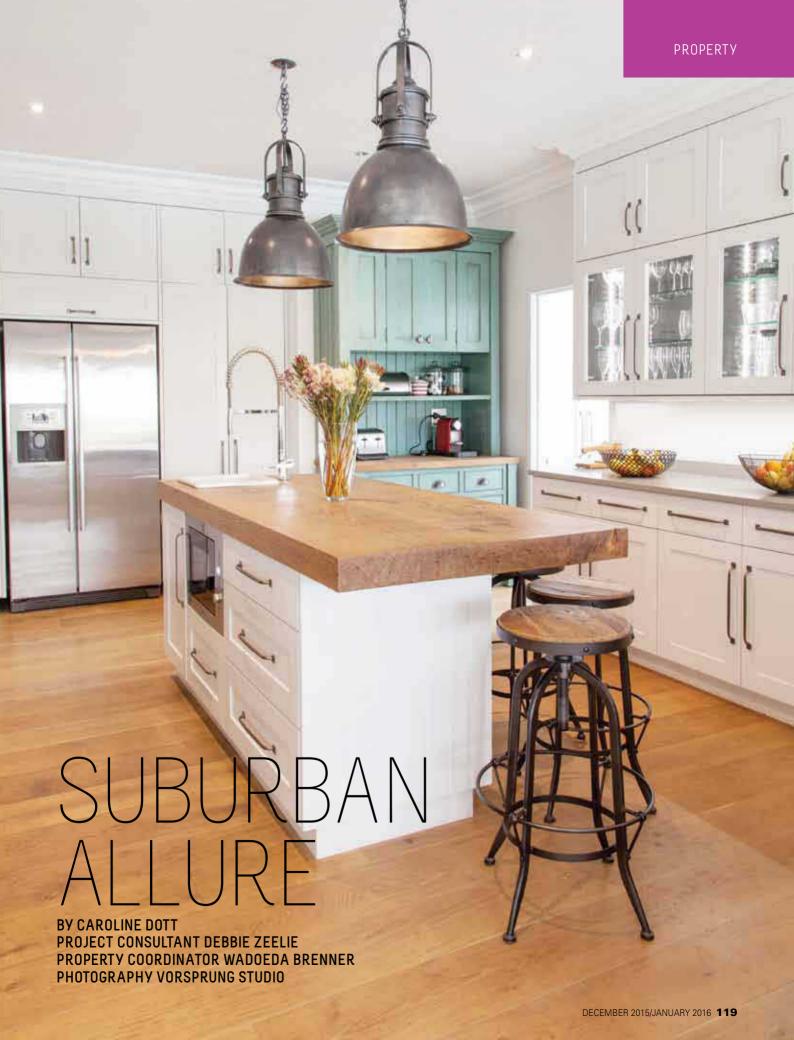
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he move from a bustling Cape metropolis to a quiet suburb not too far away was an easy choice for this family of five. The size of the home and its attractive, leafy garden are what sold it for the family, who were looking for a spacious home that would make for comfortable family living.

The home was renovated in order to better suit their needs, although its original French/English country-style feeling was something they wanted to keep. It's easy to see why: the large garden is full of colour and character, with

**BELOW:** Ambassador Doors and Windows installed the wooden stacking doors in this home, which fold and slide back for luxury and convenience. Insulated with weatherproof rubber seals, the doors simultaneously allow in natural light and views of the outdoors. The company offers full glazing and brass or chrome satin fittings with its products, catering to home owners' unique needs and specifications. These stacking doors are a functional and attractive addition that lightens up any space, making luxury living easy.



**RIGHT:** Elegant lighting with contemporary finishes was the brief given by the home owner, and Guy Wood from Pieter van Dijk Studio supplied this custom chandelier to meet the requirements. Illuminating the dining table in a warm glow, it features a brass base that is nickel-plated, which has a sophisticated appeal.

**BELOW LEFT:** For a homely look and feel, industry specialist Forest Flooring installed engineered French oak flooring and staircase treads for this home owner, whose only requirement was for a top-quality, beautiful product. The floors are finished in Smoke 5% colour, and oiled with Rubio monocoat oil for product longevity.

**BELOW RIGHT:** For those who are truly passionate about cooking, Global Pact Distributors imports an exclusive range of Falcon cookers from the United Kingdom. Sleek, stylish and top-of-the-range in terms of technological innovation, the freestanding Falcon Classic Deluxe 110 was the one chosen by this home owner for his kitchen.

The double-storey home is furnished in hues of grey, brown, white and wood, and finished in a minimalist style that gives the home its contemporary edge







endless adventure for the children and the family's pets, and the exterior of the home fits in with the picturesque garden. Two giant oak trees are the home owner's personal favourites, quietly standing guard for the family home.

For the interior, the home owners wanted nothing over-styled or decorated, although art deco influences add a contemporary element to the decor. This also provides an exciting contrast to the home's tranquil colour palette and quaint exterior.

The double-storey home is furnished in hues of grey, brown, white and wood, and finished in a minimalist style that gives the home its contemporary edge. The master bedroom radiates calm and luxury, the slightly deeper colour fitting for the private space. The elegant bathrooms are a modern take on classic luxury; a monochrome palette meets timeless styling.

The children's bedrooms are bright and playful, not deviating from the home's consistent natural feel. The living room displays more creative flair, featuring a stylised wall-length portrait.

#### CONTACT:

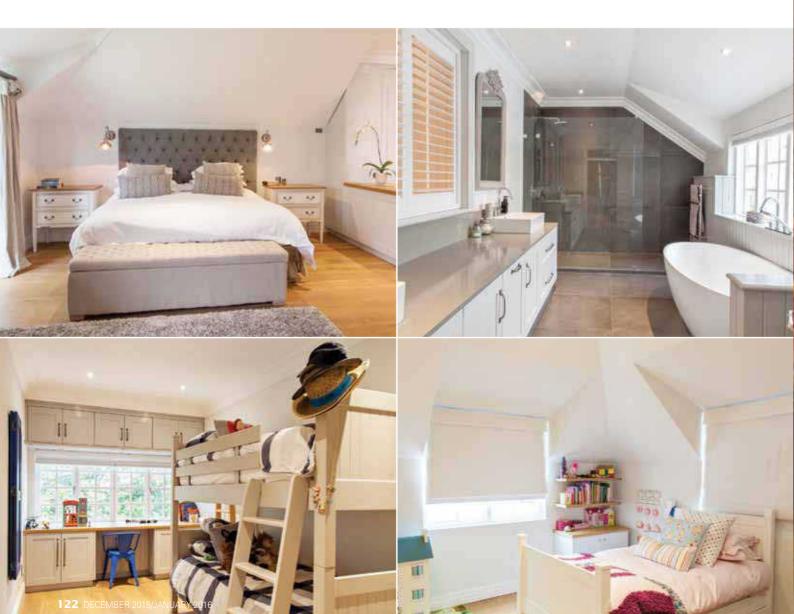
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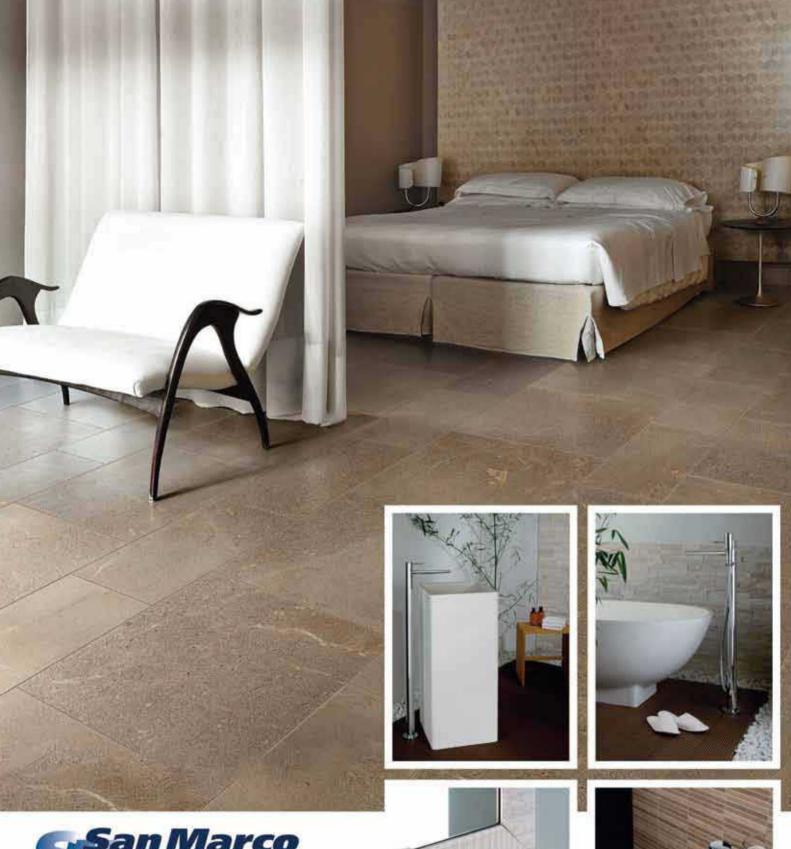
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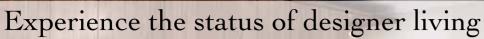
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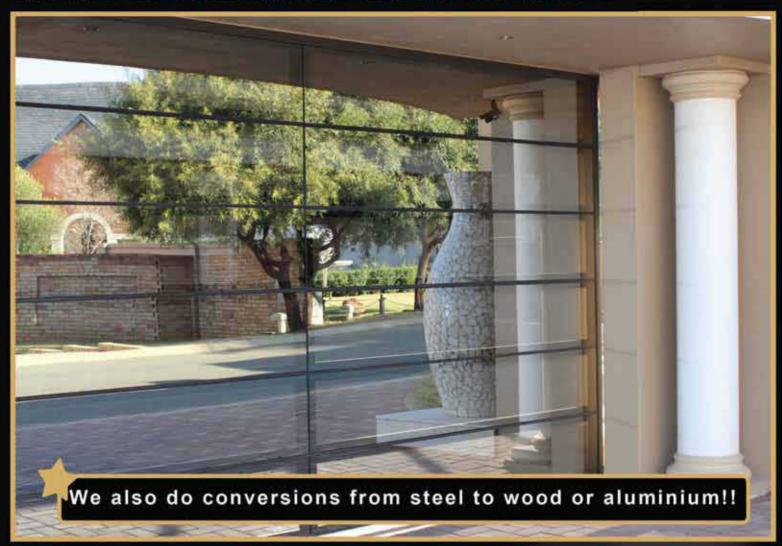
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he home owner of this classically influenced home had never undertaken a build from scratch before, but feels the process, although difficult at the time, was well worth it. "The home that was originally on the stand had burnt down, so we really bought it for the location. Building is great in that you can really get everything you want."

Built as the ultimate family home, the open-plan living area is enclosed by glass doors that open up onto the pool area, so the living area and TV lounge can become the patio space. "This setup allows the kids to be running around outside while I am inside getting on with things, but we're

still all together as a family," explains the home owner. "The kids love spending time outdoors."

The garden perfectly complements the interior. "We wanted to try to achieve the English rose-garden feel, as I think it goes well with the style of the house," she adds.

When it came to the interiors of the home, antique wooden furniture was combined with modern architecture and a country-style kitchen. Furniture and quirky decor items have been collected by the family over the years, and provide a cohesive impression of a comfortable family home where nothing is too precious, but everything is meaningful.

With six bedrooms, four of which are en suite, the large









stand was a big attraction for the home owners. "It's also close to good schools, and we loved the fact that it was in a well-established, treed area."

#### CONTACT:

**BUILD INN** – doors and security barriers 012 804 3595, sales@buildinn.co.za, www.buildinn.co.za

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**ABOVE:** According to the home owners' requirements, the double garage door needed to be contemporary, low maintenance and durable. Build Inn provided a smooth, micro-panel, foam-cored steel garage door that provides both high security and easy access. Finished in white, the doors complement other trim and doors on the exterior of this classic home.

**BELOW:** The main en-suite bathroom allows the home owners to enjoy spa-quality relaxation in the comfort of their own home. To complement the modern, minimalist look of the bathroom, DADObaths manufactured and supplied the Moloko freestanding bath in DADOquartz Pearl White that forms the centrepiece of the room.











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Built-in Braai







ontemporary, stylish and modern living has been beautifully showcased in an exhibition space in a Cape Town seaside suburb. Blok Urban Apartment Living has seven apartment buildings spread across Cape Town's Atlantic seaboard and City Bowl. Each has a unique exterior with modern, minimalistic design in the interiors.

Nature and the environment serve as one of the architects' biggest inspirations: "Sometimes the best designer on the planet is the planet itself." This phrase comes to life in both the interior and exterior design of the apartment blocks. The interior design of the homes is kept simple and modern, finished in tonal colours and exhibiting flow, comfort and

**TOP:** In creating homes, Blok endeavours to optimise every available space, in a way that maximises its value as a functional living space. The concept of a comfortable, modern lifestyle is central to the company's design team. Tonal colours and wooden flooring and furnishings give the homes an earthy, calm energy, where simplicity is key. By avoiding fad trends, this design approach will allow for longevity, ensuring that the charm and allure of the homes are everlasting.



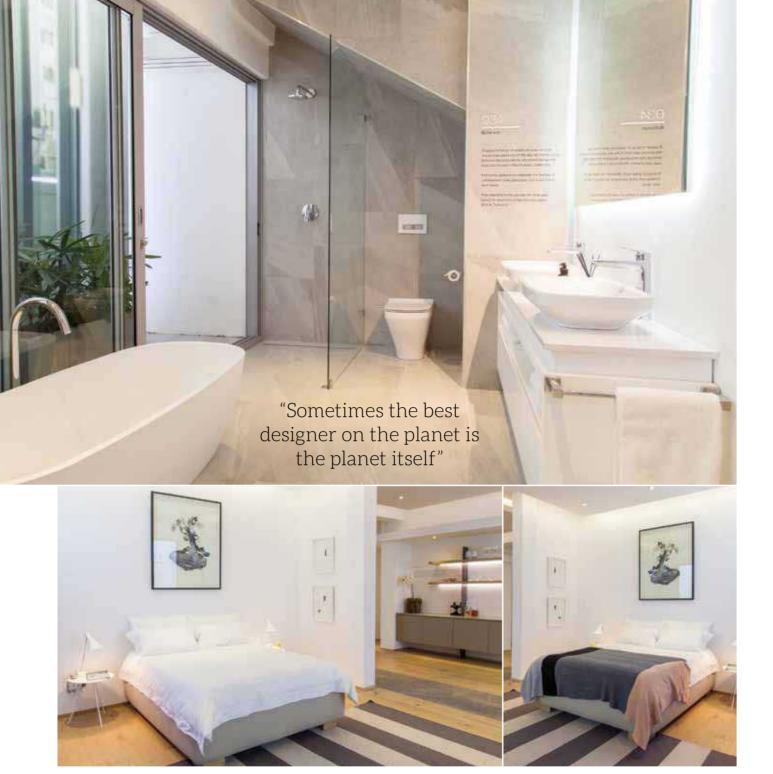
spaciousness. The simple design gives the apartment longevity and widespread appeal; the prospective owner is an urban dweller in any life stage.

The exhibition space was introduced in order to demonstrate this design and feel to prospective owners, and for a comprehensive appreciation of all of the apartment blocks in one space.

Interactive display units and magazines produced by

**ABOVE RIGHT** In keeping with classic beauty and simplicity, Blok's kitchen appliances are supplied by Smeg. Top-class technology and unique, modern style meet in Blok kitchens – fulfilling the company's intent to offer urban flair with simple yet exciting aesthetic appeal. Definitive Italian technology and style give Blok kitchens and homes a creative edge.





Blok for each individual apartment block act as guides for future home owners. Here, one is introduced to Blok's concept of "the neighbourhood", and how the location of each block was specifically chosen, with a wealth of lifestyle locations within a radius that can be easily walked.

Taking it a step further, each block is mapped at its location, with these points of interest flagged around them, measured by how many steps it would take a home owner to reach them – for instance, 35 steps to the local grocer, or 100 steps to the nearest school, park, art gallery or restaurant.

This has been done in an effort to encourage home owners to walk through their neighbourhoods and

wholly immerse themselves in them, rather than drive between destinations and miss out on everything in between.

"Home is where you'll find your butcher, your baker and your flat-white maker," says Blok, reinforcing its back-to-basics values, which it has merged with the 

#### **CONTACT:**

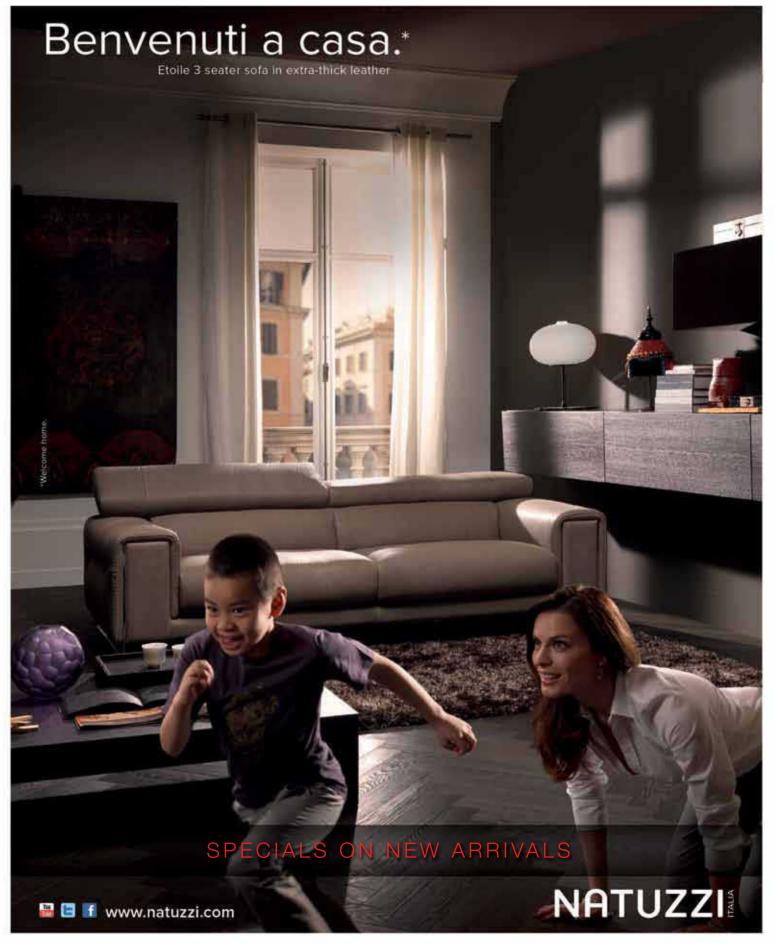
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aterfall has become a hub of modern developments, the latest of which is Waterfall Crescent, an ideal complex for those looking for a house to call home.

Here, you will find a beautiful home without having to deal with builders, subcontractors and architects. It's a finished product that can be personalised to suit your needs – the houses have different finishes, making each one unique.

The newly built, north-facing clusters are spacious, and are ideal for a lock-up-and-go lifestyle. Each house has a garden and pool, which the complex developers maintain for you.

"The design of the houses is characterised by double-volume ceilings and large windows, creating a fresh, spacious feel in each home," the developer states.

The homes include specially designed windows and doors that cannot be found elsewhere, and feature a neutral colour palette for a contemporary look.

**BELOW:** Easylife Kitchens Faerie Glen was tasked with creating a kitchen that would tie in with the contemporary feel of the rest of the house, while maintaining a balance between the aesthetic and practical needs of both a business couple and an entire family. Thick African Wenge panels and frames with white spray-painted Satin doors were paired with 20mm Ice Lifestone worktops and a chunky 60mm-thick Ice Lifestone worktop for the cabinetry. The company was responsible for the design, supply and installation of the kitchen.





**LEFT:** This home has a neutral palette, which was further communicated through the inclusion of 450mm x 900mm Concrete Beige tiles, a project undertaken by Northern Wholesale Tiles. It was important for the floors in the home to be easily maintainable, while complementing the contemporary look of the rest of the house.

"The design of the houses is characterised by double-volume ceilings and large windows, creating a fresh, spacious feel in each home."















RIGHT: Combining the Geberit concealed cistern with a sleek wall-hung toilet resulted in an uncluttered, clean space that complements the creative design of this modern bathroom. The simple elegance of the dual-flush Sigma01 plate in shiny chrome further enhances the overall look. Geberit products are efficient, hygienic and excellent space savers.

There is also a designer kitchen, modern bathroom and a built-in braai on the patio, perfect for entertaining.

These 400m² offerings are a great in-between for those who are not looking for a compact apartment, but are not planning their dream home just yet.

The development is situated along a river, making it a peaceful place to call home. It's the perfect solution for a young couple or the career-driven who are often away from home, as this property is easy to maintain.

Offering easy living in the heart of a central area, the development is also ideal for investors, as it is close to amenities, and property prices in the area are on the rise.

#### **CONTACT:**

**EASYLIFE KITCHENS FAERIE GLEN - cabinetry** 012 991 4819, 082 332 6847, 082 464 0669 **GEBERIT SOUTHERN AFRICA –** concealed cisterns 011 444 5070, www.geberit.co.za **NORTHERN WHOLESALE TILES - tiles** 011 803 9444, nwt@polka.co.za



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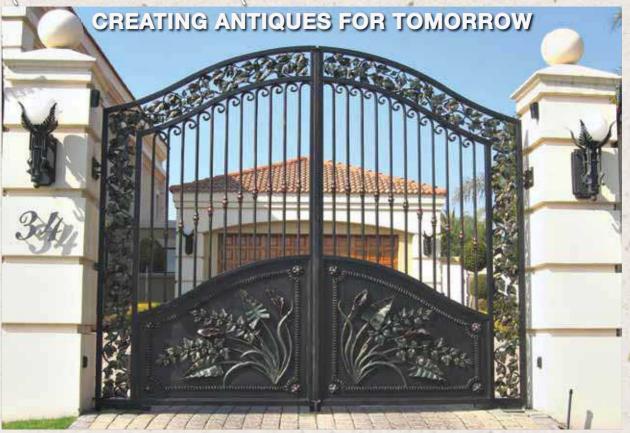
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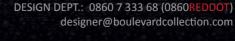
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### facetoface

A glimpse into the lives of decor and design professionals - by shereen Lurie



### JANDRE PIFTERS ART IT IS

andre Pieters, owner of contemporary art gallery Art it is, sees South African art as "a multidimensional arena of brilliance", and is motivated to encourage this brilliance by nurturing the careers of

young, up-and-coming South African artists.

With a diverse background in steel manufacturing and interior design, Jandre uses his skill set to create a gallery that is accessible to artists who find it difficult to make a commercial breakthrough in the art market.









Jandre says: "We create a platform to get artists heard of and spoken about, so that they will be able to create their own means through their art, the medium they are most passionate about."

As a patron to these artists, Art it is provides the materials they need to execute their pieces. The gallery also acts as a facilitator, giving artists the opportunity to be involved in exhibitions and events where buyers, interior decorators, interior architects and space planners can see their work.

Any work that is not sold at exhibitions becomes part of the stock library, photographed, labelled, catalogued, and available online for viewing. Jandre hopes that once the library and online gallery are thriving, buyers will recognise this as a convenient and trusted channel by

which they can source pieces for their projects. "This also makes the art more accessible and widens the scope of who gets to see and purchase the work," Jandre enthuses.

#### My favourite emerging South African artists are

Sandile N, Alex Vosloo, Zanele Mashinini and Colleen Winters.

A successful artist is a hard worker who is relentlessly committed to their craft and inspired by inspiration itself.

The artwork in my home changes on a regular basis. Our home is situated on top of the gallery.

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Wall features have become prominent, and are the perfect tool for adding some colour and texture in the kitchen



#### WALLS ARE ALL

Kitchen designs have evolved to include clean lines, floating shelves and seamless counters. Less has become more, making the space airy and light, while still maintaining its functionality.

Natural neutrals are still trending and work well in the kitchen. They create a calmness and make the kitchen a space that is easy to inhabit. Many professionals advocate a neutral-inspired kitchen, as they are modern, yet timeless, meaning you will not need to renovate your kitchen every season.

Wall features have become prominent, and are the perfect tool for adding some colour and texture in the kitchen. This can be achieved through glass splashbacks and mosaics, or marble, stone or Neolith cladding. Mosaics come in various geometric patterns, which will give your kitchen a creative edge, while glass tiles that shimmer can add a three-dimensional effect, a good idea for a small kitchen.

Playing with textures will give your kitchen warmth and character. When adding colour, try to keep the room balanced. A bright colour on the walls will contrast really well with neutral floors and cabinets; while if you have colourful cabinets, try to keep your walls neutral, so that the colours in the room do not become too overpowering.

You can also never go wrong with wallpaper that wows visitors when they step in.





They exude sophistication, and come in matt or textured finishes as well, which give them a dramatic and elegant appeal.

Appliances can also give your kitchen a quirky edge, so use those to show off your personality and make the kitchen your own. Personalising your space is a growing trend, and you can do that with the right appliances and art pieces.

With thanks to Africote International, Afrigran, Afrikano, blu\_line, Culinary Equipment Company, Defy, Douglas Jones, Dulux, International Slab Sales, Liebherr Africa, Nespresso, Smeg, Snaidero Cucine and Sterlings

- Metallics will add a luxe touch. Metallic finishes are classy, sophisticated and timelessly elegant. Cooler metallics, such as silver, stainless steel and grey, will give the space a clinical feel, while warmer metallics, such as brass, rose gold, gold and bronze, will add warmth, luxury and opulence.
- Warm, rich colours, such as marsala, dark green and dark blue, should be used carefully. While relatively sombre, if the right combinations are used, they can bring a sense of class and royalty.
- Pops of pastels are perfect if you want to inject some energy into the room and create an upbeat mood. They will add some personality and individuality. Colours such as yellow, blush pink and blues work well. These will create points of interest in your kitchen, so always choose your favourite items to accent in this way.









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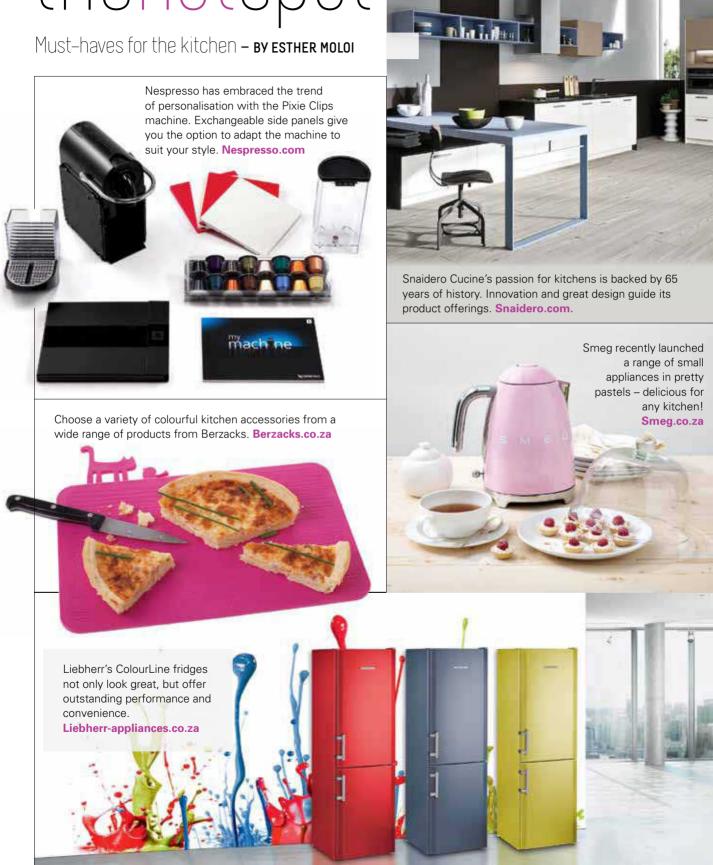
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## thehotspot



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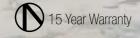
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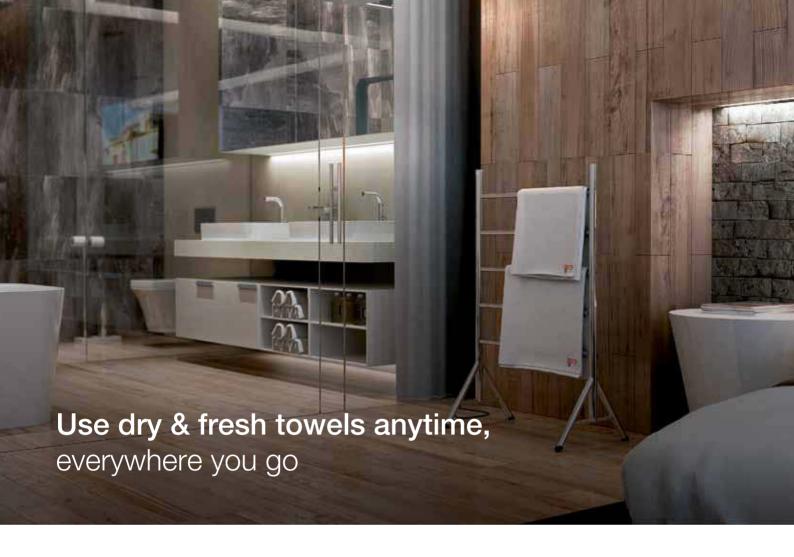
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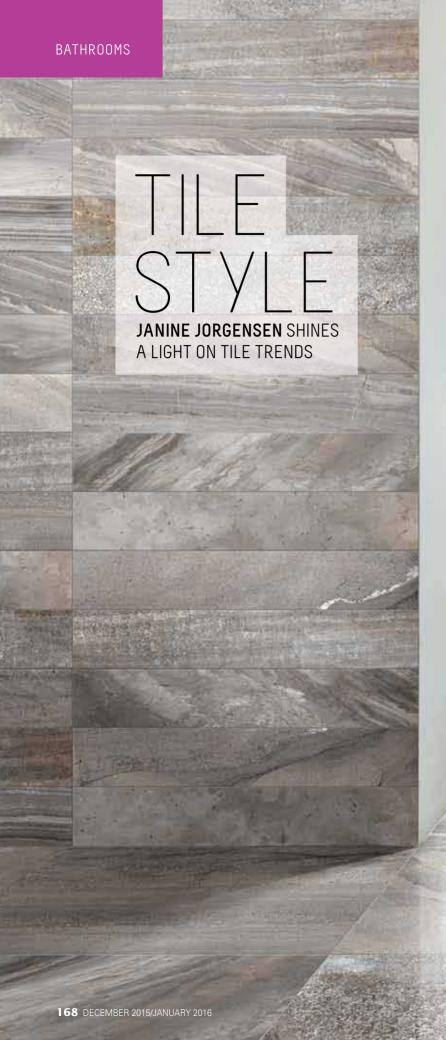














tep into any bathroom and you will probably see tiles. "Tiles are a lot more hygienic than alternative floor application products; they are easy to clean and waterproof, which is perfect for a bathroom environment," says Michelle Carlisle of Ferreiras.

They are also durable, making them ideal in a room used everyday. Practical traits of tiles aside, they are also aesthetically pleasing, points out Gina Walsh of Tiletoria, and are available in an array of finishes to suit various decor styles.

Currently, porcelain and ceramic are the most popular materials for bathroom tiles. "Porcelain requires little maintenance and can be tiled with one or two millimetres of space between," says Christelle











#### **ADVICE FOR CHOOSING TILES**

"The bathroom is your sanctuary, so choose colours and patterns you love, not just because they're trending. The bathroom should last you around 10 years, so you need to know you won't tire of the look," advises Kitty Douglas-Jones of Douglas Jones.

Michelle agrees. "Colours and patterns that are timeless eliminate having to redo your bathroom every couple of years."

Take into consideration the practicalities of who is using the space. "Very polished floors are not suited to older people and children, who can easily slip and fall," says Christelle.

Remember to purchase your tiles from a reputable retailer. "You get what you pay for, and always use a reputable installer," adds Gina.



### "Colours and patterns that are timeless eliminate having to redo your bathroom every couple of years"

Steyn of Lifestyle Ceramics. "People love the seamless look, where almost no grout is visible."

Ruan Basson of Italcotto adds: "Porcelain tiles that are rectified (manufactured to be uniform) are still the main choice, due to the versatility of using the same material up the wall as well."

Porcelain's other benefit is that, once glazed with a colour body, it can be used for high-definition printing. "This enables the manufacturer to create various patterns for a tile, with some tiles having 40 different designs before the pattern is repeated, allowing for a more natural look," explains Michelle.

While applying the same type of tiles on the floor and walls creates a sense of space, particularly in small bathrooms, using tiles as statement walls or floors is a current trend. "Rather than tiling in patches, which was the fashion before, when tiles were placed in only the wet areas, a complete wall is chosen and tiled with an exciting feature tile, or a gentle, soft pattern or design," says Ruan. This adds interest to the space and allows for creativity, with a range of patterns and finishes.

"We see many accent walls being mosaicked, with the mosaic carried through as a border around the room, to pull everything together," says Kitty Douglas-Jones.

Another popular tile application is to combine different finishes in one space. For example, "have the floors in one finish and the walls in two different finishes, where you bring in a decor tile to break the consistency", says Johannie Ras of Euro Bath and Tile. "Be creative!"





#### **TOP TILE TRENDS**

**Neutrals:** Natural colours, such as cream and stone, create a relaxing environment, which is in keeping with the bathroom as a retreat. They can be introduced with travertine, pebble, slate and marble tiles.

**Grey:** Concrete and cement are tied to the popular industrial look. Add white to these hues to brighten the space.

**Geometric shapes:** Hexagons, rectangles and circles are big news, influenced by arabesque styles. Mix and match patterns, textures and colours for interest.

**Wood look:** These tiles combine the appearance of timber floors with the practical qualities of tiles. Mix wood-look tiles with natural materials to add warmth.

**Fabric look:** Create the illusion of texture and bring in colour with fabric-look tiles. They are a good way to link the bedroom to an en-suite bathroom.

Three-dimensional effect: Innovation and decor combine for imaginative use of tiles in the bathroom, from bold designs to more subtle finishes. ♠

With thanks to Douglas Jones, Euro Bath and Tile, Ferreiras, Italcotto, Lifestyle Ceramics and Tiletoria



Wood-look tiles combine the appearance of timber floors with the practical qualities of tiles

### TOP TIPS **GEBERIT**

### PRACTICAL ADVICE ON ENHANCING YOUR BATHROOM WITH COLOUR AND TEXTURE

Bring in nature by combining wood and stone, use matt and gloss paint finishes, and add splashes of colour and touches of glass, to create a level of complexity and visual interest in the bathroom.

Work with a light muted base colour to make the bathroom look more spacious. Add accents of colour and texture to accentuate an area or to create a focal point.

Introduce natural stone in the shower area or as part of a feature wall. To enhance the overall look, select bathroom furniture in either a wood or a contrasting colour finish, whether in high-gloss or a satin sheen. For an element of sophistication, install a glass toilet flush plate or a glass panel behind the toilet.

Enhance your bathroom by incorporating products with colour and texture from Geberit's innovative range, together with its newly acquired Keramag sanitaryware and bathroom collections.





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## thehotspot

Must-haves for the bathroom - by Janine Jorgensen





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Knitted by hand from cotton, this natural bathmat from Weylandts is super soft and ultra absorbent. Weylandts.co.za



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hoosing a colour scheme for your home may be one of the most important decisions you make when decorating. Since your tastes and the trends can change over time, it's best to opt for elements that can be changed – these include accessories, scatter cushions, rugs and even paint.

If you're currently decorating or redecorating, these are a few of the colour palettes that will ensure your home is right on trend.

#### **CROWN JEWELS**

Grey continues to play an important role as the new neutral for interiors, as this versatile colour not only adds interest, but can be successfully combined with a wide variety of colour options – none more so than the beautiful, intense jewel tones that will be emerging in the new year. Royal colours such as purples and rich blues in luxurious fabrics will combine well with metallic accessories and key grey pieces.



Grey continues to play an important role as the new neutral for interiors, as this versatile colour not only adds interest, but can be successfully combined with a wide variety of colour options





#### **SMOKEY PASTELS**

Pastels may remind you of your grandmother's 1970s style, but they have taken on a modern twist as peach and copper combine. Pastel blues err on the smokey side, and combine with more intense shades of the same colour for a cohesive and sleek look that remains relaxed and welcoming. Dulux's colour of the year is a gorgeous golden tone that's easily incorporated into just about any area of the home. Pair with metallics and chocolate browns for a sophisticated, modern look.

#### SHIMMERING METALS

Metallic accents continue to play a key role in all interior schemes. Pair blues with silver or copper, peaches with copper, and purples with silver, and you'll love the subtle shimmer of your new interior scheme.

#### **ELECTRIC BLUES**

Inspired by the energy of Rio de Janeiro, Plascon's colour of the year, Atlantic Beach, is an electric and deep tone that you can incorporate through feature walls, accessories and even occasional furniture such as a side table. Pair with either silver or copper accessories and lovely neutrals – whether stark white, cream or darker hues, the options are endless. Bright blues combine well with darker-hued purples. Don't be afraid to go all-in with this colour scheme, as it can be both luxurious and welcoming, with a memorable, dramatic effect.





There are no rules when it comes to combining patterns, but keep similar or complementary colours together

#### **NO-RULE PRINTS**

Prints are a wonderful trend going into summer, and it's best to incorporate a few complementary prints than use one throughout the room. Layer them up for an interesting look that can be easily changed along with the seasons and trends. There are no rules when it comes to combining patterns, but keep similar or complementary colours together if you want a more pulled-together look.

#### **BOHO EMBRACE**

Earthy colours combined with dark oranges and reds make for a warm and inviting home that creates a lived-in look, and is full of energy. Perfect for family homes and handsomely complemented by heirloom furniture, wooden accessories and organic shapes, this is one of the easiest trends to embrace and will last beyond 2016. mm

With thanks to 100% Design South Africa, Black Fabrics Coricraft, Dulux and Plascon





















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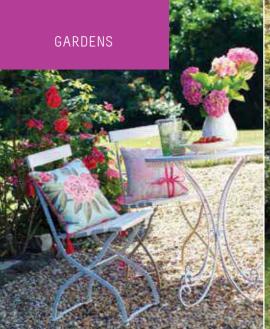
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## LIFE OF ITSOWN

**CAROLINE DOTT OFFERS SOME IDEAS** FOR STYLING YOUR SUMMER GARDEN

home's garden is its character - a living and breathing personality. In the middle of summer, everything is looking fabulous, and ought to be shown off!

Colour is (almost) everything, and this season's trend is a calm palette of whites, greys and greens, subtly accented with more vibrant colours. With the neutral colours as a

canvas, flowers in bright, vivid colours will stand out as the stars of the show.

Summer is free and easy - and this is trending in gardens, too. Colour and style arrangements are simple and sophisticated, rather than flamboyant with too many colour schemes. Landscapers are choosing to plant en masse, for elegant-looking gardens that are easier to care for. This means flowers or plants of the same kind are grown together, in one space. This works well aesthetically, and can be achieved in a variety of ways.

For example, one type of flower could be planted along a garden walkway – African daisies are a beautiful choice and there are dozens of vibrant colours to choose from. Then one might choose to plant rows of white roses in front of the patio - effortlessly charming and a great option for



attracting birds and bees. Layering is another trend for the

This is an easy, pretty way to add diversity to a big garden. Layering is done by grouping together plants of the same type, and arranging them around plants of different heights. This can be strikingly achieved by starting off with a low hedge. Try dune crowberry for

Colour and style

arrangements

are simple and

sophisticated, rather

than flamboyant

with too many

colour schemes

an indigenous, evergreen shrub, or honeysuckle for a less formal, flowered look.

Behind the hedge, choose a taller. bolder flower to stand out: lilies attract pollinators and come in a range of colours that will bring your summer garden to life.

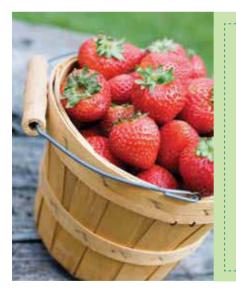
Then, a small tree or shade plant completes the final row. Mackaya bella is an indigenous shade plant that boasts large purple to white flowers, and would work splendidly to complete the assembly. If appropriate, a climber such

as the colourful hydrangea could also complete the group, as 

With thanks to Julie-Ann Michell and Chris Tunnicliffe of Julip Landscaping



When choosing flowers for your summer garden, be sure to include indigenous, water-wise shrubs and perennials with deep-throated flowers and vivid colours, says Starke Ayres' landscape manager, John Sharpe. These will attract birdlife and beneficial insects such as butterflies to your garden as they search for nectar. **Starkeayresgc.co.za** 



#### SWEET TOOTH

The Western Cape's vast landscape means there's always an outdoor activity to enjoy. Strawberry picking at Polkadraai Farm in Stellenbosch happens throughout December, and is a great way to get out and spend time with friends and family of all ages.

Polkadraaifarm.co.za



#### SHOW AND TELL

Summertime is showtime for gardens. "If you invest in your garden now, you will enjoy a summer of splendour and colour, and be the envy of your festive-season visitors," says Nick Stodel, MD of Stodels Nurseries. Stodels recommends agapanthus, roses, daisies and petunias for a great summer show. Fuchsias are beautiful flowers for shady areas of your garden. **Stodels.com** 



#### PET PEEVES?

If you have a problem with worms that damage your plants, Julie-Ann Michell of Julip Landscaping has a handy trick: lay a wet towel over the affected area in the evening – this will draw the worms out of the ground, where they feed on the roots of your plants, and you are able to remove them. **Julip.co.za** 









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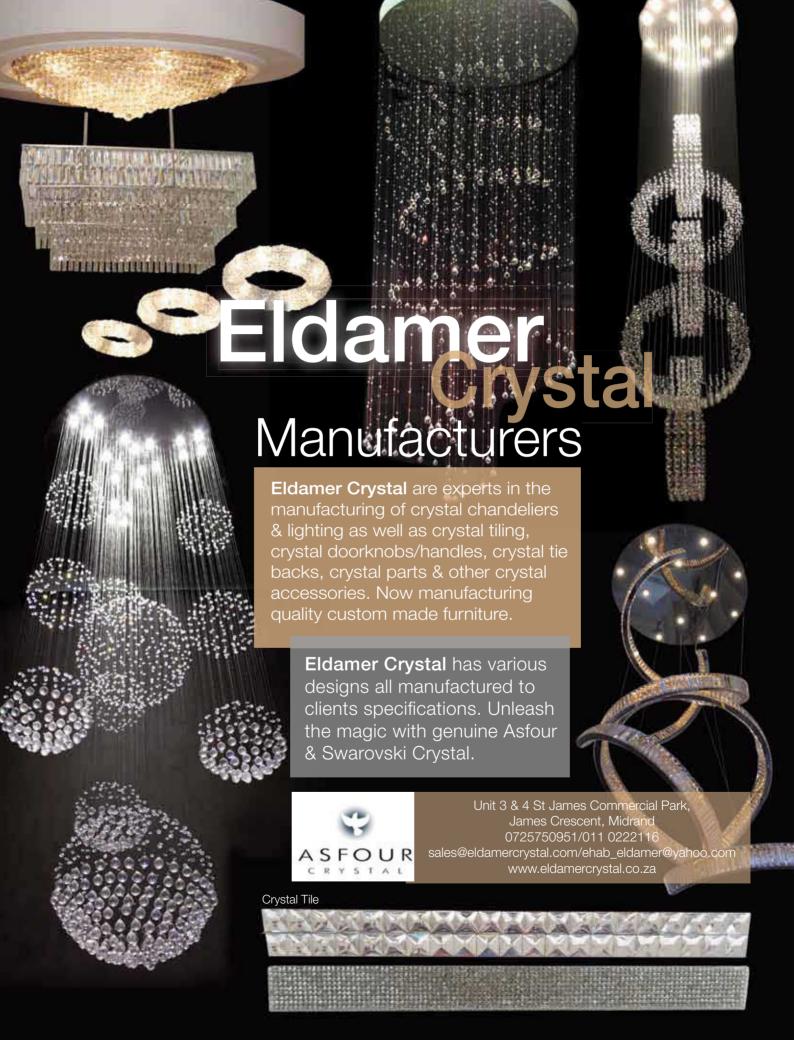
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he season of sun, fun and adventure is upon us.
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for not pulling the covers from the pool and
turning your garden into the ultimate party venue.





Longer, warmer days mean more time to enjoy the outdoors. However, your guests should have the option of enjoying the warmth and sunlight from a protected space. Sun umbrellas and mobile gazebos are attractive and easy options for the garden; and mobility means versatility – so choose shading that can be moved around to just the right spot throughout the day.

If you need a larger shaded space, blinds and awnings will shelter guests as they enjoy their cocktail, or provide a cool spot for the food and drinks. Colourful shading will brighten up your garden party.









#### **BRAAI TIME**

An outdoor get-together isn't quite there without a sizzling braai. Again, mobility makes for versatility - you want to be able to position the braai in a spot that works best for any occasion or changing weather. Poolside or on the patio, a braai pulls everything together - there is room for everyone to get involved, and no one has to be separated from the party atmosphere.









won't want your guests to lose sight of each other or being in the darkness. Garden lights allow the party to go on for as long as you like; they are charming and exciting to look at, and they are versatile – spherical lights can be placed as they are, or encased or raised.

For the patio, roped fairy lights keep the energy young and vibey. Suspended pendants are classic and beautiful, for a post-party wind down, so there really is no reason to head inside any time soon. 🏛



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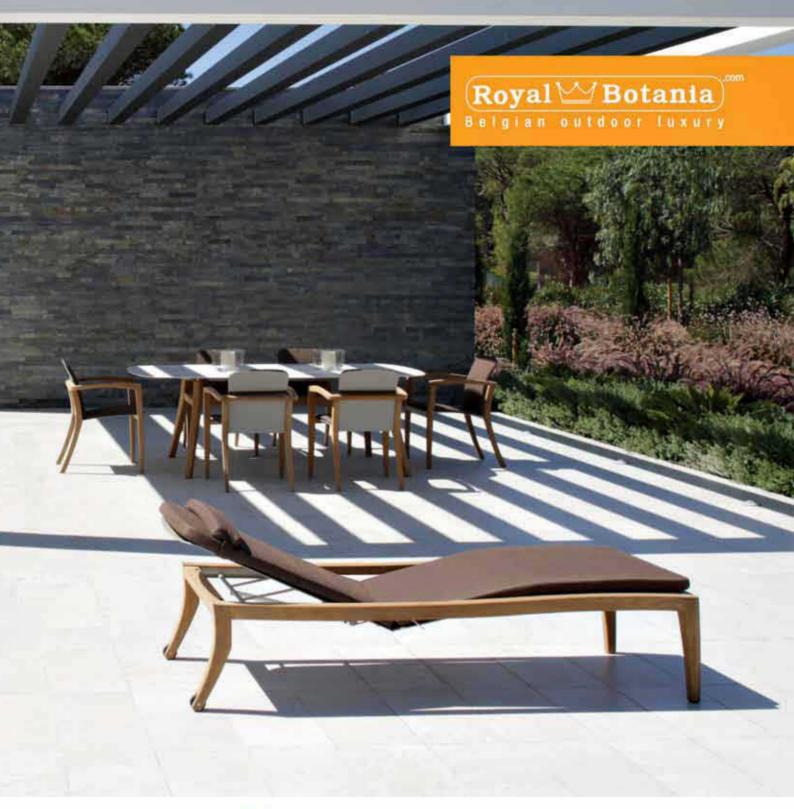




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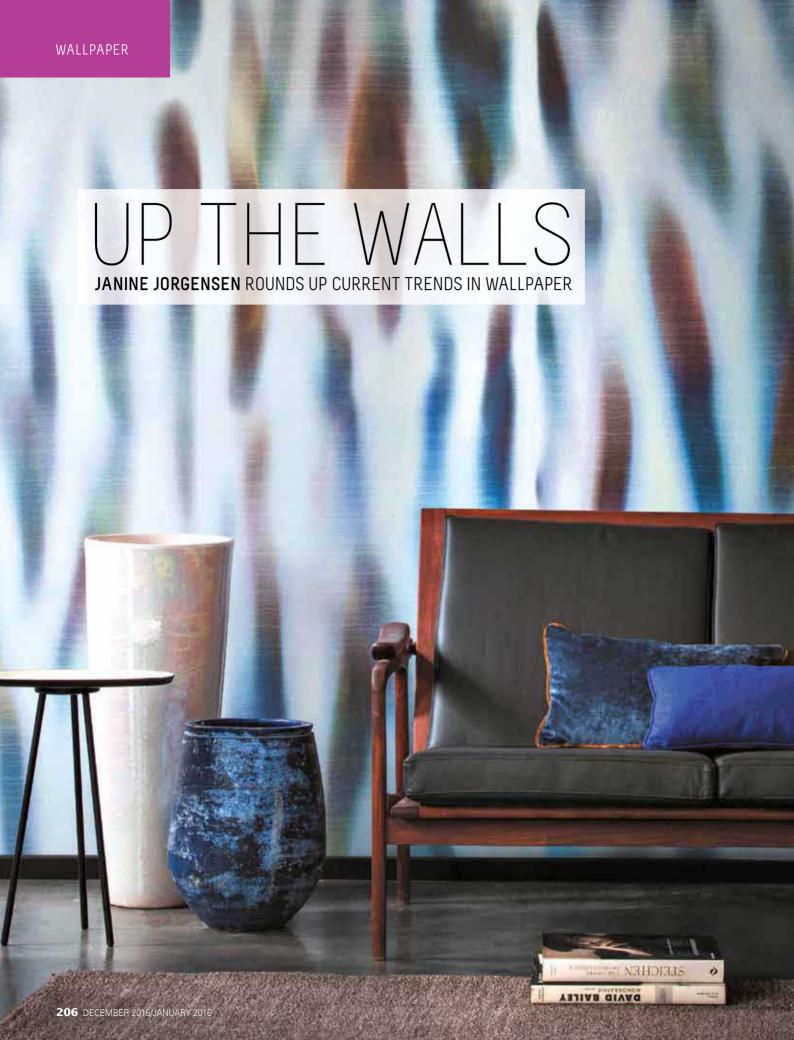
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#### **DIGITAL PRINTING**

Create your own designs or use your photos, with digital printing for wallpaper. "With digital printing, anything is possible. Detailed and colourful images can be accurately depicted and feature walls can be custom designed – the sky is the limit!" says Katrin Herrmann-van Dyk of Hertex. This includes holographic, three-dimensional and even self-adhesive wallpaper.

Digital technology has also widened the scope for the materials used for wallpaper. "It is now possible to print on almost anything you want, in any colour, scale or quantity, using a mind-boggling array of different equipment, including eco-friendly inks and papers that are gentle on your home and gentle on the environment," adds Robin Sprong of Robin Sprong Wallpaper.







With the decor world taking inspiration from the past, this influence has extended to wallpaper. Some textile design houses have revisited their archives and relaunched collections with prints and patterns from previous periods.

Designers have also looked at the art world, using watercolour graphics and painterly motifs, some hand painted and in bright hues in current ranges, along with paintings themselves. Robin says: "We are seeing contemporary paintings from some of the Old Masters being cropped and blown up to take up an entire wall."









GEOMETRICS
"One of the trends
in wallpapers is geometric
designs in bright, bold and
contrasting colours," notes
Gabrielle Dyer of St Leger
and Viney. This trend is suited
to contemporary spaces, or
can provide vibrancy to more
traditional settings.

Gail advises using boldpatterned wallpaper as a statement, behind a bed, up one side of a staircase, as a stand-out feature at an entrance, and even on a ceiling.







NATURE
The natural world continues to make its appearance on walls, from bold florals and animal prints to forest photography, oceanscapes and sunsets. "We've noticed the botanical prints have been increasingly popular, with requests for big, leafy trees, fruit and tropical themes," says Robin.

Animal prints provide a luxe element to a space and are being produced in new colours, such as gold, navy and even green.







As wallpaper has instant impact, it sets the tone in a room. It therefore has to complement the decor, lighting and architecture of the space. If you are using it as a focal point, such as a statement wall, keep the rest of the scheme of the room simple, either matching upholstery with fabrics from the same collection or pairing with plainer pieces.

Don't feel limited to using wallpaper only for walls. With digital technology, "people are now printing onto more surfaces, from glass kitchen splashbacks, tabletops and ceilings to bathroom tiles, floors and canvases", adds Robin.

#### TEXTURE

A tactile approach to home decor remains popular. For walls, this effect can be both real and simulated. "Textured wallpaper adds interest and depth to any scheme, no matter where you decide to use it," says Gabrielle. Materials such as faux leather, linen mixed with metallic colourways, grasses, bamboo, velvet and silk are all being applied to walls.

Simulated texture can be just as convincing as the real thing. Examples include wallpaper that looks like exposed concrete, peeling paint and wood panelling. "Wood in all its forms, from rustic planking to elegantly finished wood grains, are trending right now," comments Robin.

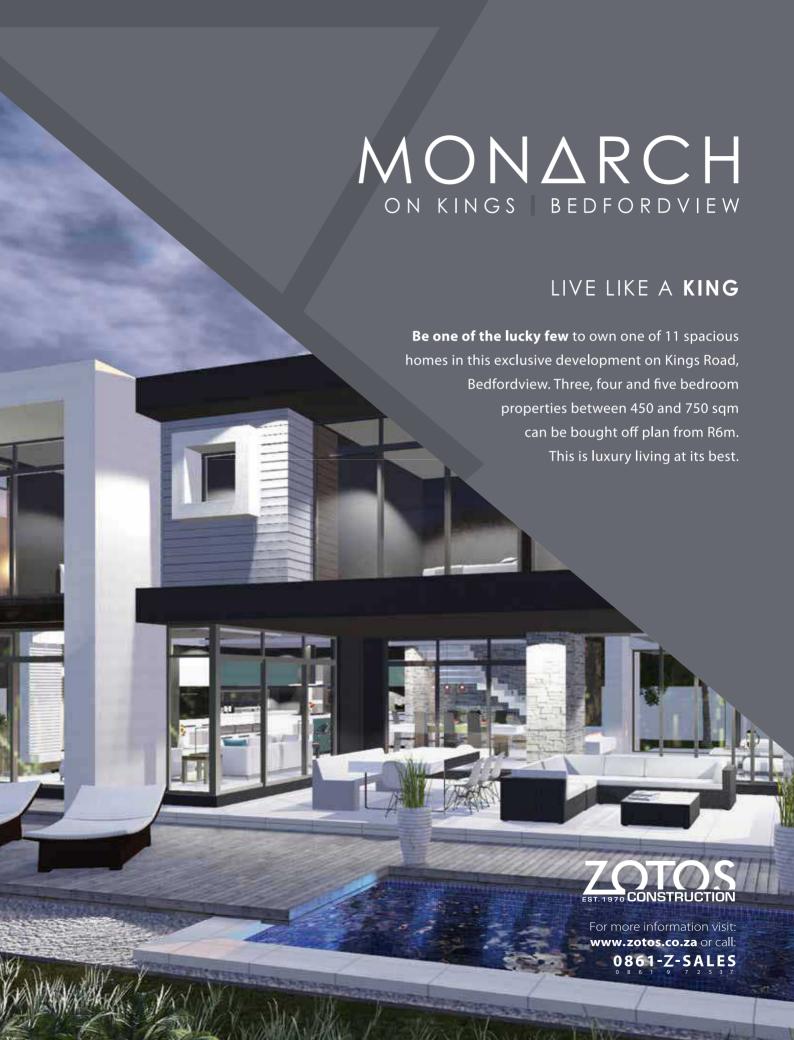
With thanks to Halogen International, Hertex, Robin Sprong Wallpaper, Smart Art and St Leger and Viney













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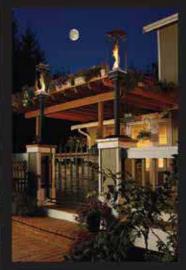
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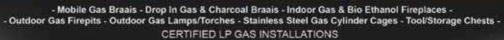






















here's no doubt that colours are emotive.
Think of how you feel when you look out
across an expanse of green fields, as
opposed to a coal yard – one will make
you feel calm and relaxed, while the other may
cause feelings of anxiety or sadness. This is colour
psychology, and while many colours have different
meanings across cultures, there are some well-studied
and documented examples of the emotions colours
may evoke.

All colours are divided into two categories: warm or cool. The warm family includes reds and oranges, while cool colours are blues and greens.

White represents purity and offers a sense of cleanliness. With minimalism and open-plan spaces taking over the interior design scene, this will always be a popular option; but there are definite signs that people's approaches to interior design are changing.

Grey, in all her shades, is a popular choice for interior spaces, as it has many of the effects of white, while adding more interest, and allowing for mixing and matching. This versatile colour is indicative of calm intelligence, while being timeless and neutral. It also pairs well with a wide variety of both cool and warm colours.

Black accents are gaining in popularity, being contrasted with white to form grids and patterns, or used to highlight and frame lighter colours, creating











contrast and interest in the home. As a symbol of authority and power, black also teams up well with metallics, and is perfect for office spaces and living rooms. Black-and-white combinations are emerging as an unusual and surprising colour scheme for babies' rooms at the moment. This actually makes perfect sense, since babies are not able to distinguish different shades until two months, so high-contrast decor is an excellent option. Pops of colour can easily be added to this neutral scheme later on.

Blue never seems to go out of style. A symbol of loyalty and serenity, light blues are perfect for bedrooms, while darker blues such as navy can add a punch of colour that's not too overwhelming for living rooms.

Green performs much the same function as blue, and is associated with health and tranquillity. These hues, found in abundance in nature, are the perfect way to bring the beauty of the outdoors in – painting a ceiling in a very light blue to mimic the sky will create a sense of space. These are also wonderful, calming colours for children's rooms.

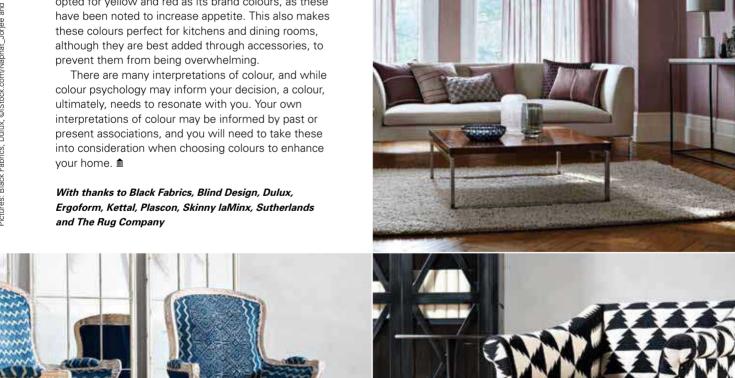
There are many interpretations of colour, and while colour psychology may inform your decision, a colour, ultimately, needs to resonate with you





Purple has been known to increase creativity and is seen as sophisticated, yet exotic. It is also a symbol of royalty in some cultures. Living rooms, bedrooms and dining rooms could all benefit from a splash of purple.

McDonalds really knew what it was doing when it opted for yellow and red as its brand colours, as these









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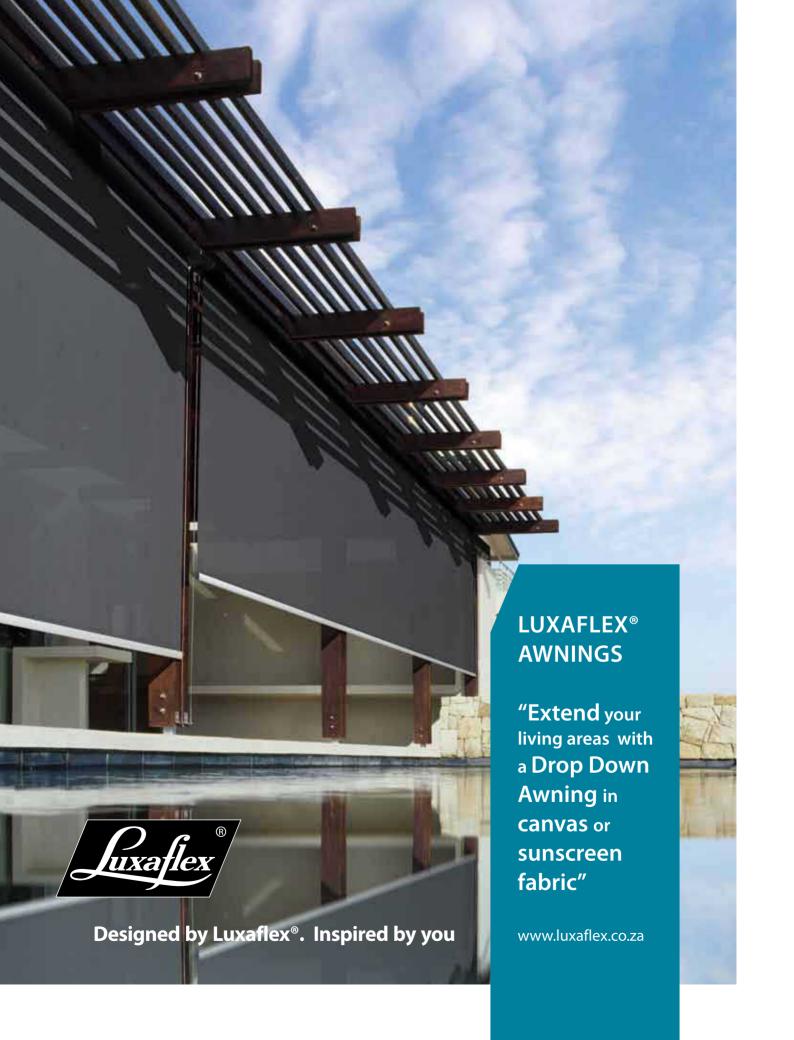
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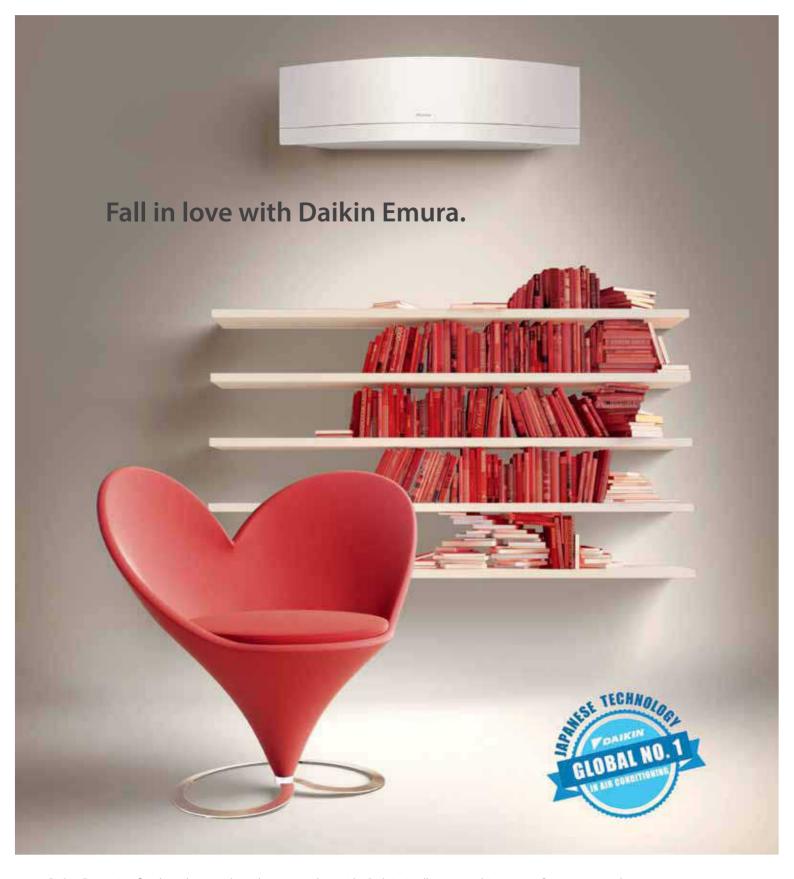
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positioned exactly to exclude direct solar radiation and to make best possible use of diffused daylight. This allows you to keep the sun from warming you, and not to resort to artificial light and electricity use. Mirrored and concave slats scoop the light far into the depth of the room, while simultaneously reducing the concentrations of light near the window.

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Fabric blinds are a stylish option and can be adjusted according to the height of the sun at a particular time of day. Light fabrics will allow light in, while shading your interiors. They also require minimal dusting, and are available in a wide range of colours and styles to suit your interior. Sheer fabrics are perfect for diffusing sunlight, while allowing gentle light into the home, but check for UV protection.



**INSULATED WINDOWS** 

Just as windows and doors are insulated against the cold in winter, they can also keep cool air in – especially when using air conditioning. Coupled with blinds and/or awnings, insulated windows can reduce the load placed on air conditioning, along with electricity costs. Opt for aluminium frames and tinted glass for maximum effect.

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### TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY

#### MARIANNE MCDONALD LOOKS AT THE IMPLICATIONS OF GETTING INTO THE PROPERTY MARKET

etting onto that proverbial property ladder is the aim of many young people in South Africa, despite the challenging economic conditions of the last year. High rent costs and interest rates that are still low enough to encourage first-time buyers to take that first step onto the property ladder mean the property market remains strong.

However, buyers are now taking many other aspects of property ownership into consideration, and many of these may cause them to think twice about home ownership or selling and buying again.

#### FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Is it best to get into the property market no matter what, or to save and wait for the chance to buy a home that's more suited to your needs? There are many costs, beyond your initial purchase and bond costs, that should be considered when deciding if property purchase is the right move for you at the time.

Some of these considerations include the transfer costs, lawyer's fees, rates and levies, as well as sectional title levies, the actual costs of moving households, which can be significant, the cost of furniture and fittings for a new home, as well as possible maintenance costs – especially for older homes in more established areas. Many sectional title properties also don't allow for the physical changes or additions home owners might want to undertake in the future.

In many instances, these costs are considered significant and outweigh the advantages of moving. This means many people either decide to stay as they are for the time being and save for a bigger deposit, or apply for finance in order to improve the property they are currently living in.

#### FINDING THE RIGHT HOME LOAN FOR YOU

Unless you are able to put down a significant deposit, the interest paid over the standard 20-year period of a home loan will probably outweigh the actual value of the property – which can put many people off – as lending rates in South Africa are relatively high.

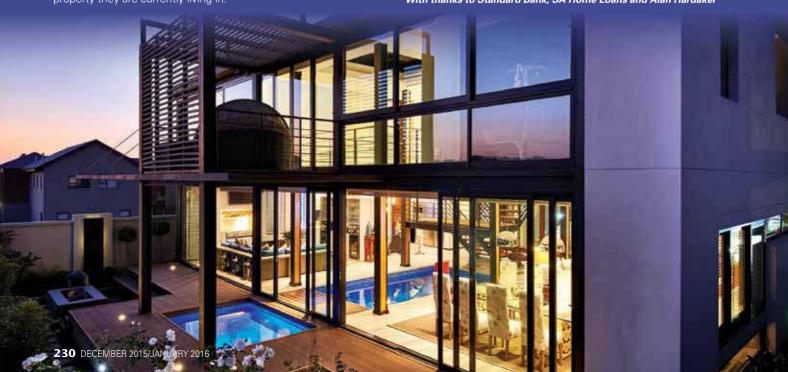
Remember that interest rates fluctuate, so you should be prepared for higher rates in a few years' time. If this makes you nervous, you could opt for a five-year fixed interest rate, but then you will not benefit should interest rates drop. If you can put down a bigger deposit on the property, you should be able to negotiate a lower rate, which means many people are opting to save for longer and take on a smaller loan. You can also make additional payments into your loan or pay more than is required on a monthly basis to reduce your loan period.

#### **BUYING OFF PLAN**

When buying off plan, many first-time buyers don't recognise the risks involved, and while it may seem an excellent option both financially and in terms of choosing fixtures and finishes, it's important to do your homework before embarking on a purchase. When buying off plan, you will be asked for a deposit – but be aware that you may be asked for other deposits before the build is complete, although the full amount is payable only on completion.

Should the build come to a halt for financial, political or social reasons, you could potentially lose your deposits if the developer is not reputable, so make sure to investigate its past developments and the company as a whole. Most of the savings come from the fact that there are no transfer duties payable when buying from a developer.

With thanks to Standard Bank, SA Home Loans and Alan Hardaker



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ia. Vancleefarpels.com





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#### THE FINEST CALIBRE

The TAG Heuer Carrera - Heuer 01 has a new case, new design, new construction and new calibre. Its supremely clean design reveals the chronograph controls and the openworked date disc on the dial side. On the case-back, its red column wheel, the skeleton chronograph bridge and the black weight draw the eye into the mechanism. Made from light titanium for greater shock resistance, it is constructed

differently, no longer the single piece traditionally used by TAG Heuer, but modular with 12 different components. **Picotandmoss.co.za** 



#### **HALO EFFECT**

The Mercedes Benz AMG GT only recently snarled onto the SA motoring scene. An interpretation of the classic sports car genre, the turbo-charged V8 GT has borrowed cues from its Porsche 911 Stuttgart rival, particularly in the rear side quarter angles.

With two derivatives to pick from – the standard version with 340kW, or the S version packing 375kW – subtle lines and classic coupé proportions were the engineering priorities. And this sleek powerhouse is so quick, you can easily miss the 3,8 seconds it takes to shoot from 0 to 100km/h (GT S version)!

With a reasonable consumption of 9,6 litres per 100km for the powerful S version, the all-round charm and charisma of the GT emanates a certain halo effect that can leave you no less than impressed.

- Courtesy of Brenwin Naidu, editor of Sunday Times Motoring



#### **HOLISTIC BEAUTY**

The latest addition to Africology's group of spas is Africology Eco-Aesthetics Spa at Dainfern Square, situated in the leafy suburb of Dainfern. One of South Africa's top holistic and eco-friendly spa and skincare brands, Africology is dedicated to providing its clients with an unparalleled spa experience. The moment you enter the doors you are greeted by exotic botanical scents and the friendly smiles of Africology's helpful staff. Each treatment involves layering a wide selection of Africology aromatherapy oils, leaving you feeling completely pampered and relaxed.

In addition to its therapeutic spa treatments, Africology has paired with Spiral Aloe Wellness to offer a selection of medi-spa treatments. "Our Urban Spa has numerous wellbeing offerings, including wellness consultations that are integrated with treatments. Weight loss, coupled with detox and good lymphatic flow, and outcome-based aesthetics, are two key areas of expertise," explains Renchia Droganis, CEO and Founder of Africology. Africologyspa.com









Located in Cape Town's V&A Waterfront, Lawhill Luxury Apartments provides the perfect home base from which you can explore the Mother City while on holiday. Situated in the heart of the Marina, the apartments offer all the luxuries of staying in a five-star hotel along with the added convenience, space and privacy of 'living it up in celebritystyle' in a fully equipped apartment.

Lounge around your private pool, go on shopping sprees, walk to some of the city's renowned restaurants, and entertain guests on your patio with breathtaking views.

All apartments have fully equipped kitchens, dining areas, and open-plan lounges with WiFi access. Most boast private plunge pools while a communal pool and gym is also available.

Lawhill Luxury Apartments has a concierge service, daily housekeeping, 24-hour security and underground parking. Children are welcome and babysitting services may be arranged.

There simply is not a better place to stay and enjoy Cape Town at its best!

For more information on Lawhill Luxury Apartments, call 021 418 2138, email reservations@lawhillluxuryapartments.com or visit www.lawhillluxuryapartments.com.



READERS' OFFER: quote SA HOME OWNER 2015 when making your reservation and receive a 10% discount (not valid during high and peak seasons).

## ESCAPE TO LUXURY



#### THE MASLOW – GAUTENG by Esther Moloi

After defying the traffic of Sandton, I was happy to arrive at The Maslow. The friendly staff was ready to welcome me for my brief stay, and ushered me to a luxury suite with a private balcony.

The first thing I did was enjoy the beautiful views of Sandton. The suite was stylish – think of a spacious, contemporary bachelor pad in the heart of the city – featuring contemporary decor and fine finishes (including a bed fit for a king).

I enjoyed a wonderful dinner with a few friends at the Lacuna Bistro – I recommend the hake tempura with jalapeno dressing. The Lacuna Bar is also a great venue for unwinding after a long week at work.

Breakfast the next morning had me powered up for a session of rest and relaxation at the Africology spa. But first, I had to soak up some sun on a lounger at the pool. It was so peaceful that I forgot we were in the heart of the busiest part of Johannesburg.

My visit to the Africology spa sealed the deal for me. I went for The Maslow Journey, where Meagan's magical hands released the tension from my neck and back, and a facial using natural serums that left my face feeling refreshed.

The Maslow is the perfect getaway when you choose to reward yourself for all of your hard work, but don't want to leave the city to do so.

#### Suninternational.com/maslow



ith the holidays almost within reach, many of us will be planning – or at least thinking of – that summer vacation, and the best places to stay to ensure a comfortable and relaxing time away. After 11 months of hands to the grindstone, that escape should offer the utmost luxury, and remind us why we work so hard during the year.

To make your decision that bit easier, the *SA Home Owner* team visited a few of South Africa's top luxury accommodation destinations across Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, to get a first-hand feel of what they have to offer. All you need to do now is make your reservation, pack your bags, and go!



#### SAXON HOTEL, VILLAS AND SPA — GAUTENG by Janine Jorgensen

Driving up to the entrance of the Saxon Hotel, I was full of anticipation. Aside from its reputation for five-star hospitality, and its historical connection as Madiba's choice of location to write *Long Walk to Freedom*, there's something luxurious about a night away in a magnificent hotel just a few kilometres from home.

And there's no shortage of luxury at the Saxon: from the valet on arrival (my car was definitely one of the smallest in the lot!) and friendly concierge, to my large, restful room, complete with complimentary bar and butler.

Watching the sun set with a generous G&T at The Terrace was one of the highlights, following which I returned to my room, soaked in the bath with imported Molton Brown treats, then wrapped up in a cosy robe, and sipped on the bubbly that had been waiting on ice for me. I particularly enjoyed the ultimate hotel indulgence: room service presented on a silver platter.

Thank goodness I set my alarm for breakfast, as I wouldn't have wanted to miss out on the buffet at the Qunu Grill, which included an array of fresh fruit, pastries and even oysters. My hot breakfast was served with the most delicious orange juice, which the attentive staff kept topping up.

The hotel also benefits from a spa, with the signature Sound Therapy, using Tibetan singing bowls to restore balance, a must. Lying on the lounger after a massage and time in the flotation pool, I felt pampered by my whole overnight experience, and in no hurry to check out and collect my car key from the front desk.

#### Saxon.co.za



#### MAKARANGA - KWAZULU-NATAL by Jessica Binns

Stepping into the reception area at Makaranga, you are instantly transported into the treetops of the glorious gardens that await you behind the hotel.

Greeted with a friendly face for check-in, I was shown to my home for the night: the presidential suite, situated in the newest part of the hotel. The views, also directed over the gardens, can be enjoyed from two spacious balconies. Accommodating a lounge area, super-king four-poster bed and a bathroom that I almost got lost in, Makaranga goes out of its way to ensure comfort is experienced on another level.

Dinner was taken in the Nonna Restaurant, a popular spot for guests and locals alike. The lamb knuckle hit the spot perfectly on this particular chilly spring evening.

The morning brought with it one of Makaranga's signature experiences, a personal guided tour of the exquisite and therapeutic gardens, finished off with a very generous breakfast picnic from the Makaranga Deli, next to one of the many picturesque ponds. Being chauffeured on a golf buggy with a cappuccino in hand was a nice touch, especially as this allows everyone the opportunity to experience the gardens, whatever your age.

What became apparent from my stay at Makaranga is that children are welcome. This does mean a four-star rating, but if you are looking for all of the qualities of a five-star with the added bonus of bringing the kids along, Makaranga not only meets, but exceeds, those needs.

#### Makaranga.com





#### MADIKWE SAFARI LODGE - NORTH WEST by Shereen Lurie

Some define luxury as indulgence in an opulent lifestyle, where you are partial to the best of everything; for others it's something far less tangible – access to time and peacefulness, to find solitude amid the hectic pace of everyday life. For me, it's a combination of both.

My family and I were recently invited to experience the hospitality of Madikwe Safari Lodge, one of the top lodges in the 75 000ha malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve. Of the three lodges in the Madikwe Safari Lodge group (Lelapa, Kopano and Dithaba), we were based at Lelapa Lodge, which offers a five-star safari experience for the whole family.

From arrival until departure, we were treated like royalty by Lelapa's incredibly attentive staff. The package includes luxury accommodation, all meals (including a sumptuous high tea) and two daily game drives. While this is expected at a five-star bush resort, it's the endless list of extras (personalised water bottles, chalkboard notes from our housekeeper, hot towels on our return from game drives, and a surprise bush dinner – complete with drumming session) that made our stay truly memorable.

In between game drives, we divided our time relaxing in our spacious suite and curling up with a good book

in the stylishly decorated lounge area. It was a real treat to know that our son was kept entertained with a plethora of fun and educational activities, while we stole a few hours for ourselves.

Madikwe Safari Lodge surpassed all of our expectations, providing the

ultimate in luxury, and allowing us the opportunity to enjoy time out in the most tranquil and picturesque of settings.

Madikwesafarilodge.co.za







#### TINTSWALO AT WATERFALL — GAUTENG by Kerry Hayes

It's difficult to imagine a tranquil escape amid the hustle and bustle of life in Johannesburg. But drive through the gates of Tintswalo at Waterfall, and you enter an unexpected world of luxury, beauty and relaxation.

Tintswalo at Waterfall has an equestrian flavour, which is in perfect synergy with the equestrian spirit of Kyalami, where it is situated. This is drawn into various elements of the five-star boutique hotel, from artwork and decor to the stable-inspired collection of guest rooms. I was stabled in the Lipizzaner room, a stately room with huge en-suite bathroom, flanked by a balcony that overlooks a tranquil dam.

The peaceful croaking of frogs and early-evening birdsong extracted all remnants of stress, and prepared me for a hearty meal at the in-house restaurant. With elegant table

settings and exquisite views across the estate gardens, the restaurant offers an adventurous menu that proved difficult to choose from, but I finally decided on the signature lamb burger with beetroot relish, followed by a tiramisu.

What stood out for me most was the exceptional service from the staff – from the concierge and welcoming crew to the restaurant waitron, who looked after me as if I were royalty.

A good night's sleep in a luxurious king-size bed, complete with feather pillows (there was a touch-and-go battle of wills to vacate the bed in the morning), ended with a fresh early-morning breakfast, and a friendly wave from the staff as I ended a marvellous overnight stay.

Tintswalo at Waterfall also has excellent conferencing facilities, should you wish to brainstorm that 2016 strategy in a truly inspiring venue.

#### Tintswalo.com

#### LAWHILL LUXURY APARTMENTS – WESTERN CAPE by Kerry Hayes

If you are travelling to Cape Town for business or leisure, and prefer a stay on the more luxurious side, the Lawhill Luxury Apartments at the Marina, V&A Waterfront, is an excellent accommodation destination.

Consisting of two blocks of luxury self-catering apartments in a waterfront estate, Lawhill is exquisitely designed with elements of luxury in every room – from a fully equipped kitchen to the finest finishings, and a beautiful bathroom.

Overlooking the One & Only waterway, the setting is peaceful and inspiring, and being within walking distance of the V&A Waterfront completes the package.

Security is par excellence, with a unique visual identity system linked to your security tag, allowing you exclusive and safe passage in and out of the estate – should you wish to pop across to the One & Only for a sumptuous breakfast or dinner, or take a shopping trip to the V&A.

A daily cleaning service ensures your room is pristine after a busy day out, and the knowledgeable and friendly



reception staff is more than happy to assist you with suggestions of where to go and what to do if you're on holiday, and anything else you may need. For a Cape Town stay, Lawhill is my accommodation destination of choice.

Lawhillluxuryapartments.com



#### AFRICAN PRIDE MOUNT GRACE COUNTRY HOUSE AND SPA – GAUTENG by Hasmita Amtha

After having heard wonderful reviews on Mount Grace Country House and Spa, I could not wait to be on the road and on my way. Ideal for a weekend out of the city, Mount Grace Country House and Spa is situated in the lusciously green hills of Magaliesburg.

If you're driving from Jo'burg, it takes only an hour and a bit to get to the country retreat; and once you arrive, the team welcomes you with a delicious drink, while you check in.

With a true country feel, the hotel and spa has a strong European flair, with cottages that house luxury guest villas across the rolling hills on which Mount Grace is situated.

Each room has contemporary decor, mixed with old-world luxury and a dash of boldness with splashes of colour. A rather inviting space that made me feel at home, as I could quite easily put my feet up and relax as peace and privacy prevail.

Both dinner and breakfast were amazing. If you do visit Mount Grace, ensure that you make a dinner reservation at the Rambling Vine restaurant for its gourmet food and wine pairing; or enjoy an intimate dinner with a menu that boasts a five-course meal to satisfy the most discerning palate.

To ensure you work up an appetite, arrive early and indulge in some activities on offer like walks around the koppies, mountain biking or just lazing at the pool. And if you love a good spa treatment, try out the aromatherapy massage – it's just perfect to relieve any knots.

As the team at Mount Grace says: "Leave your stress in the city, and enjoy the luxury of time in a world where your every desire is not only met, but exceeded."

#### Africanpridehotels.com



#### AFRICAN PRIDE 15 ON ORANGE – WESTERN CAPE by Caroline Dott

The cool marble foyer of African Pride 15 On Orange provides welcome relief on a sweltering Cape Town day. A smiling concierge directs me upstairs, to the reception area. The flight of stairs is palatial – a deep red with glittered accents, flanked by classic white marble and illuminated by soft pendant lights.

The receptionists are polite and friendly, and I am given a tour of the hotel's ground-floor facilities, which include the dining room and hotel bar, leading onto a large outside deck.

Upstairs to my suite, which is spacious and elegant, for a quick freshen-up. A view into the city is offered from large windows on the boundary wall, in front of which a lounge suite beckons the weary traveller. Complimentary eats and a personalised welcome card have been laid out for me – a personal touch that leaves a happy impression.

After a quick look around the bathroom – open shower, gorgeous bathtub and marble vanity unit – I venture upstairs. The top floor hosts the hotel's spa and rooftop pool, both of which are ideal for a relaxing cool-down.

It's late afternoon, and the bar seems a sensible place to be. I brave the heat and choose to sit on the deck to enjoy a cocktail, followed by an early dinner. The food is

beautifully presented, and of five-star quality. The warm air and hubbub of the city offer a vibrant ambience and clear contrast to the cool, quiet interior – which is where I eventually retreat for a cosy end to the excitement of the day.



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## BANG ON TREND!

#### HASMITA AMTHA VISITS THE NEW BANG AND OLUFSEN STORE AT MELROSE ARCH

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or those who are serious about sound, Bang and Olufsen has launched a new store in Johannesburg, and you have to visit to experience the true effect of good sound.

Situated at Melrose Arch, the new store delivers a sensory experience through design and sound, and showcases the beautiful and highly distinctive product range of one of the world's oldest and most premium luxury audio brands.

For more information on Bang and Olufsen, call 011 463 2410, and visit Bang-olufsen.com or Beoplay.com.





Materials such as lambskin leather, memory foam and aluminium make the BeoPlay H6 comfortable and bring a sense of everyday luxury

Pictures: sunnlied



e are all aware that the best way to live is to have a healthy work-life balance. Unfortunately, in today's technology-driven world, it is very difficult to live life according to the book. In a challenging and competitive corporate world, we find ourselves pushing more and more hours as every year passes.

Environment plays a major role in the way in which we approach our work, and recent studies show a dramatic increase in productivity in a relaxed and less formal space. Many large and medium-sized companies are doing everything in their power to make the working life of employees as inspiring as possible. It's a proven fact that happy employees are more motivated and outperform those in a tedious routine. Current-day benefits include in-house medical

services, unlimited high-speed Wi-Fi for personal use, free snacks and drinks, not to mention dry cleaning and similar services. It is no longer purely about financial gains; employees are looking for convenience and perks that make life easier.

Offering all of the fancy perks is great, but if the environment that people come to every day is drab and boring, it will counter the effect of all the added bells and whistles. Most people working in an office environment are working more than the required average of 45 hours a week. That is a lot of time to be stuck in a dull and dreary space that offers no visual stimulation. There are still thousands of corporate offices out there that still resemble dull corporate "sweat shops"; they

feature different shades of beige, from floors to walls and partitioning, and consist of rows and rows of workstations.

The old mindset was that a corporate environment had to be structured and serious, a formal space in which people took their work seriously. A recent paradigm shift looks at design thinking and realises that innovation comes from a host of factors – one of the overriding ones being a pleasant and stimulating environment.

For many years, it has been the advertising industry that has had the most outlandish interiors, to promote out-of-the-box

thinking and freedom of expression, allowing for experimentation and testing of new ideas. Forward-thinking companies are now looking to this creativity for their own interiors.

It is out with the dull shades of beige, and welcome to a host of fun and colourful elements. Fun is the keyword here. People love to laugh, and we have a different frame of mind when we are smiling and laughing.

For the past decade, world-famous designers such as Philippe Starck and Karim Rashid have been designing products that are inspired by humour and add a completely different dimension to similar

products of the past. These items have included kitchen appliances, bathroom accessories and furniture.

Office furniture and accessory design is taking inspiration from this, and we are starting to see a host of products being created for the office environment that are far removed from their traditional counterparts. Hanging lights that resemble clouds are functional, yet add differentiation to any space. Colourful furniture that is interchangeable is quite a big trend – for example, sofas that have their seats made from colourful padded

blocks, which can be changed around in order to vary the look. Oddly shaped, brightly coloured coat hooks that transform a wall into a functional work of art are far more impactful than an unoriginal art print. Movable and stackable plastic furniture is great for that impromptu brainstorm session, and allows for different configurations and setups; when not in use, the space can be used for another purpose.

Other popular features are screens made of bold polypropylene organic-shaped elements, which allow for spaces to be broken up, but without destroying the flow. Interaction within a space is essential, so solid partitioning is being phased out, or being used only in areas which require privacy.

Plants are also a key element, but no longer in a boring planter; instead, we see vertical gardens and unusual containers that look like sculptures.

There are no longer rules for the interior of a workspace. The more outrageous and creative, the more inspired the staff; the more inspired the staff, the better the outputs.



## A STYLISH SMEG COOKER, WORTH R25 000-FROM MASONS

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The Smeg Symphony Range Cooker comes in a selection of timeless colours to suit every taste and kitchen style. Visit Masons, one of the homestore specialists in top of the range appliances, and choose from stainless steel, satin cream, ice-white, pastel blue or fiery red to bring your dream kitchen to life.

For more information on Smeg appliances, call 0861 MASONS (627 667) or visit Masons.co.za.





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Lafarge South Africa invites specifiers and approved Artevia™ applicators to submit their entries in the exciting Artevia™ Decorative Concrete Competition.

The competition is open to projects using Artevia™ concrete and completed between October 2013 and June 2015.

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- Specifiers, including architects, landscape architects and specifying engineers:
   Overall winner: R40 000 travel voucher
  - Winners in each of the 3 product categories: R20 000 voucher

Award ceremony: Michael Angelo Hotel, 5 April 2016.

Closing date for the competition: 20 January 2016.

For further information and entry forms,

please visit our website: www.lafarge.co.za







The Artevia™ Decorative Concrete Competition is co-sponsored by Chryso Southern Africa and Lanxess.

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## out&about

Exploring the real gems around the COUNTRY — BY JANINE JORGENSEN



#### ART OF LIVING

Bringing "I'art de vivre" to South Africa, French luxury furniture brand Roche Bobois has opened a showroom in Kloof Street, Cape Town. Collaborating with the likes of Jean Paul Gaultier, Sonia Rykiel Maison and Missoni Home, the range strikes the perfect balance between high design and accessibility for the home. Isn't the Mah Jong modular sofa upholstered in Missoni Home fabrics a striking addition to the living area?

#### PERFECTLY PRETTY

In time for summer (and Christmas wish lists), local accessory designer Lou Harvey has launched a new collection, featuring wine coolers, aprons and all styles of bags. The latest range features her signature cheerful, bright prints, with some additions, such as the Jamie Drives, Edwards Stars and Benjamin Stripe designs in reds, blues, greens and yellows.

Louharvey.co.za

#### **TOUCH WOOD**

We love the current trend of incorporating natural materials in the home, and at Woodenways you'll find a selection of furniture handcrafted from timber. Recently, the brand opened two new showrooms, in Hermanus and Nelspruit, where you can browse sofas, tables and an outdoor collection, among other items on offer. Woodenways.co.za





#### **FURNITURE WITH FLAIR**

Ashley Furniture HomeStore has just landed in South Africa, with its first local store opening in Centurion. Originally established in the US more than 50 years ago, the now international brand promises "stylish, affordable furnishings" for the home, including items for the bedroom, living area and dining room. Info@ashleyfurniturehomestores.co.za

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